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Lib State Historical Soc X

THE OPEN SHOP

MANY STRIKES IN SAN FRANCISCO IN OPPOSITION TO IT.

The Story of The Carmen's Backdown—Boycotts Galore—Union Teamsters Accused of Scabbing—S. L. P. Making Great Progress.

San Francisco, May 14.—The first of May found San Francisco groaning under the weight of labor troubles great and manifold.

The midnight bell that ushered in the international holiday called the street car men into solemn conclave at the Alhambra Theatre, where the fate of the city was to be decided, with regard to means of transportation at least. The rising sun discovered more than the usual number of boycotts enlivening the city streets. Theatres, newspapers, cloak houses, restaurants, stables, bootblack stands, all came under the ban; and the long familiar cry "unfair house" rose clearly above the noise of traffic.

But that dreaded spectre, the carmen's strike, failed to materialize. It had been threatening all the year and the public looked forward with fear and trembling to the first of May when the agreement between the union and the company came to an end. The last week of April was taken up with the negotiations between the United Railroad Company and the Carmen's Union. President Mahon of "International Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes" came to town in the interests of the union. But no decision could be reached. The ultimatum of the company consisted of thirty-nine articles which contained many compromises but remained firm on the crucial point of the "open shop." The unions refused to instruct any more students and would not budge an inch on the "closed shop" proposition. "Closed shop or strike" was their cry.

In the meantime the company was stocking its car houses with bedding and provisions and was known to be making provisional engagements with non-union men from the north, south, east and west. Busses and wagons were also being purchased for the purpose of transporting the new employees to the points where they might be needed, and for conveying to the car houses the non-union cooks and waiters who were prepared to set out at a moment's notice. Moreover, public opinion which was with the carmen at the last strike had shifted over to the company. When at midnight on April 30, the carmen met at the Alhambra Theatre, their position was not an enviable one. They were sworn to strike if the company did not yield. There was no sign of yielding, yet a successful strike, even for one hour, was impossible. In the midst of the excitement scouts sent out to investigate the company's procedure, returned to report that "strike breakers" were being dispatched from the headquarters of the United Railroads to the various car lines; and that over 100 cooks and waiters were waiting in a certain employment office to be removed in busses to the different car houses, where the windows had been protected with iron net-work to prevent any effect from indiscriminate stone throwing.

At one o'clock the mayor of the city appeared in the theatre and addressed the throng. He begged in the name of the citizens of San Francisco that the strike might be delayed for three days in order to give him time to secure new concessions from the company. The carmen caught at this relief from their dilemma. His request was granted, and the conclave broke up.

Within the described time a fortieth clause was added to the company's "ultimatum," which was simply a re-assertion of what had been said before. The union accepted the "amended terms" and the city drew a sigh of relief. The United Railroads had won. The "open shop" was established.

The stablemen's strike, which also includes the hack-drivers and horseshoers, is not so easily settled. It is the result of a declaration for the "open shop" issued by the Stable-Owners' Association a few weeks ago. The hack-drivers went out last month, but returned to work on the 23d ult., and refused to strike again at the call of the stablemen; but they were locked out on the morning of the 8th inst., because they would not call off their boycotts. The stablemen now complain that the teamsters are scabbing on them.

The cloak and suit house boycotts seem to be intermittent. It is hardly safe to state whether they are on or off just now.

The Citizen's Alliance is taking an open hand in the restaurant boycott. A rival sandwich man has appeared in front of Johnson's restaurant bearing a legend, signed by the alliance, to the effect that the boycott is "unjust, un-American," etc.

The Boot and Shoe workers of this city and Petaluma were locked out yesterday morning in consequence of a strike in the factory of Kutz & Company. This strike was called in defiance of the Shoeworkers' International organization. The vice-president of that body has come to the city to adjust the difficulty. The Painter's Union is still divided.

Strikes in their various stages of progression are so numerous here that it is impossible to keep a correct record of them all. But one significant fact is to be noted, viz., in every case the object of the struggle is the question of "closed" or "open shop." The long fight between the Union and the Employers Association seems to be closing in, and it looks as if the unions would be the losers. The Citizens' Alliance is growing more and more aggressive and the unions seems to be giving way. This is especially discouraging to pure and simpledom from the fact that San Francisco, owing to backward economic conditions, has always been the haven of unionism.

"Mother" Jones is in town at present. She addressed the Labor Council last night in behalf of the miners of Colorado and Utah.

The United Brotherhood of Railroad Employees is holding its biennial convention here this week.

Unaffected by the surrounding excitement, Section San Francisco S. L. P. keeps steadily at work. The boys are holding several street meetings a week, and interest in the movement is on the increase.

Our May-Day celebration was a grand success. It began with music and speeches and ended in a social and ball from which all went home well pleased with the S. L. P.

THE COST OF LIVING.

An Increase of 4 Per Cent. in One Year and 41 in Seven.

The cost of living—now considerably greater than it was a year ago—will be an issue in the political campaign. The increase from May 1st, 1903, to May 1st, 1904, is shown in Dun's index number to have been from 98.561 to 102.208. In a bulletin issued a few days ago by Col. Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor, the changes in wholesale prices during the last thirteen years are set forth. The index numbers of certain commercial agencies and economic authorities, it should be understood, have been published for many years and are based upon a study of current prices. In making a just average and reaching the result, substantially all of the representative commodities that enter into consumption are considered, in quantities apportioned according to their relative importance and the consumption per capita.

Dun's index number, for example, for May 1st of each year shows an advance from 72.455, in 1897, to 102.208 in 1904, or an increase of 41 per cent. in the cost of living in these seven years. Bradstreet's calculations, the results of which are indicated in another way, show an advance from 6.5119 on July 1st, 1896, to 9.0502 on May 1st of this year, or an increase of about 39 per cent. Colonel Wright's inquiry ends with the year 1903, comparing the average cost of living in that year with the cost in preceding years and with the average for the ten years ending in 1899, which he calls 100. It shows that the average relative prices of all the commodities considered was higher in 1903 than at any time in the preceding thirteen years. The advance since 1897 was from 89.7 to 113.6, but at the end of 1903 a rising tendency was observed. The cost of fuel and lighting showed a remarkable advance, being higher in 1903 by 49.3 per cent. than the average for the decade ending with 1899. For refined petroleum the increase from March, 1893, to December, 1903, was 100 per cent. Colonel Wright's bulletin fills a volume of more than 100 pages. The index numbers of which we have referred bring the statistics down to date and include some expenses of the average family that were not within the scope of his investigation.—*The Independent.*

It is a peculiar feature of the present industrial reaction that the cost of living, as to the more necessary and immediate articles, has been rising, while wages and incomes are quite generally tending downward. Dun's index number of commodity prices shows the following changes by principal classes since a month and a year ago:

	Mar. 1, 1904.	Feb. 1, 1904.	Mar. 1, 1903.
Breadstuffs..	$20.116	$17,988	$17,868
Meats	8,528	8,203	9,007
Dairy, garden	14,547	15,078	13,539
Other food...	9,469	9,665	9,405
Clothing	17,916	18,129	16,504
Metals	15,849	15,774	17,085
Miscellaneous	17,190	17,191	17,059
Totals ,...	$103,615	$102,028	$101,067

The advance in breadstuffs within a month is of striking extent, and they averaged higher in price a month ago than they did a year ago, though lower than a year ago. Dairy and garden products are higher than a year ago and so are food commodities and clothing, though the position of the consumer here is a little more tolerable than it was a month ago.—*Springfield Republican.*

THE LITHO AFTERMATH

Overflow of Apprentices, Grading System, Speeding Up and Piece Work, Help To Make It Up.

An old proverb runs thusly: "Nothing foul can be so finely spun as to be kept forever from the light of the sun." Sad as the fact is, only through material suffering does the working class awake to reality. Long ago did the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance point out the fallacy of the principle that the interests of capital and labor are mutual, underlying the English or pure and simple type of trades unionism. Actual experience all along the whole line of trades unionism is proving the fact that the workingmen in their struggles with the capitalists must organize on class lines—on the principle that the interests of the working class are opposed to the interests of the capitalist class—under the protecting wings of a working class party, in order to win and hold their own. With sledge hammer blows the aftermath of the lithographic lockout, which ended in the signing of an infamous arbitration agreement, is driving this truth home.

At the beginning of the trouble, at a mass meeting in Cooper Union, Coakley, President of the Press Feeders' Union, spilled a few bottles of ink and smashed some water glasses, when, amid flights of vehement oratory, he asserted he would sacrifice his little home rather than sign an arbitration agreement such as was then proposed by the employers. Yet five weeks after Mr. Coakley and Mr. Pritchard, both honorable gentlemen, were touring the country for a worse arbitration agreement, "at their own expense," so it was alleged. Why shouldn't they? Aren't the interests of employee and employer mutual, and in helping the employers weren't Coakley and Pritchard, the two honorable gentlemen, also helping the employees?

During the lockout, orders for lithographs accumulated, especially was this the case with the poster houses. So great was the necessity for filling orders that it is said on good authority that, at the end of three weeks, the poster houses, together with a number of commercial houses, threatened to break away from the employers' association, rather than forfeit their contracts. This was the opportunity of the locked-out men. How was it utilized? A committee, headed by John W. Parker and Edward Stoddard, Presidents of Poster Artists' Associations, went about persuading the locked-out men to sign a worse species of arbitration agreement than that against which they had argued a few short weeks previously. And why shouldn't they? Aren't the interests of capital and labor mutual; and in helping the employers weren't Parker, Stoddard and Kitchelt, like the two other honorable gentlemen, Coakley and Pritchard, helping the employees?

When the lock-out began, the men involved were practically a unit. During the lock-out a so-called "good government club" was formed, composed of foremen and the ultra conservatives. This club theratened to scab it, if the lock-out wasn't ended. Here are its declaration of "principles":

"THE GOOD GOVERNMENT CLUB.

"The members of this club believe thoroughly in the justice and fairness of the attached rules and principles:

"They believe that in shops operated under such rules, the workingmen will be rewarded according to their skill and diligence, will not be asked or compelled to accept the level of the unskilled and lazy.

"The workingman will again take pride in his own productions as he will not be asked to give less than he knows he is capable of giving. Great talent will have full scope and will be appreciated instead of being suppressed.

"Employers and employees will again live in friendly, honorable relations with one another, and the present ill-grounded suspicion and mistrust will disappear, thus avoiding strikes and lock-outs."

The members of the Good Government Club are denounced in uncomplimentary terms. "Scabs" is the least of the epithets given to them, while "suckers" is not the worst. But why should this be? Aren't the interests of capital and labor mutual; and in helping the employers weren't and aren't the Good Government Clubites, like all the honorable gentlemen already named, helping the employees?

All the foregoing is preliminary to the aftermath. Now to the aftermath itself. When the arbitration agreement was signed in "the mutual interests of capital and labor," it was generally believed that the conditions prevailing before the lock-out would obtain, with the exception of the clauses providing for arbitration for one year and the increased ratio of apprentices in the pressroom. The artists were delighted; they would regain recognition. So were the feeders; they would be promoted to pressmen. But the first disappointment came with the return to work. It was then found that not all were being reemployed. The bosses, availing themselves of the clause allowing for an increased ratio of apprentices to pressmen, transferrers, proofers and engravers, filled the places of the men, wherever possible, with apprentices, young men who had never been in the trade before. The feeders who saw promotion ahead found themselves in the street. Complaint elicited the fact that since the increase in the ratio of apprentices had not been definitely fixed, the bosses, though outraging the spirit of the agreement, acted within the letter of it. And why shouldn't they increase this ratio indefinitely? Aren't the interests of capital and labor mutual; and in helping themselves to apprentices, aren't the employers also helping the employees?

Again it was found in one especially large establishment in Williamsburgh that the employees had been graded in classes, A, B, C and D, according to alleged efficiency and ability. This thing, which was foreshadowed in the declaration of principles of the Good Government Club, will become general. The employers, so the writer has been informed on reliable authority, are determined to break down the maximum and minimum standards of wages, and the solidarity which makes them possible. They count not only on the Good Government Club and the non-union apprentices to aid them, but on the competition among the workers themselves, which the gradation will cause. With C and D getting the poorest kind of work, the lowest wages and the first of the lay offs, it is expected that they will spy on A and B, and push them to the limit in order to get their grading. And why shouldn't the employers thus grade employees? Aren't the interests of capital and labor mutual; and in helping themselves by destroying the solidarity of their workers, aren't the employers helping the employees?

The next trump card of the employers—for they have several more up their sleeves—is the intensification of labor. It was discovered by many employers during the lock-out that the output of presses could be increased forty per cent by reversing the lay of the stones and speeding up. It is their intention, so several employers have declared, to make this the standard of output within the year covered by the arbitration. The influx of apprentices, the Good Government Club, and the grading system are means to the same end, and are part and parcel of it. Why shouldn't the employers, contrary to their promise to preserve the stability of the trade, intensify labor? Aren't the interests of capital and labor mutual; and in helping themselves by intensifying labor, aren't the employers also helping the employees?

Another move will be the introduction of piece work wherever possible. Where the grading and contract system does not prevail, and where it is found to be more profitable than any other system in vogue, piece work will be introduced. Employees may protest that piece work is a screw that with every turn lowers the wages that go into the workers pockets. Why shouldn't the employers introduce it? Aren't the interests of capital and labor mutual; and in helping themselves by introducing piece work, aren't the employers also helping the employees?

All sarcasm aside—the litho aftermath plainly demonstrates that the mutual interests of capital and labor do not exist, and that any organization that banks on that principle is bound to be ensnared by arbitration agreements that prevent it from striking while the employers are imposing new methods of exploitation on its members. It is folly to suppose that even a full treasury back of such a principle will help it to win. The L. I. P. had a big treasury as a result of abstaining from strikes for over twenty years. Yet to-day, after only five weeks of lock-out, it is compelled to levy an assessment of 5 per cent for the first three weeks, 10 per cent the second, and 20 per cent the third, in order to replenish its treasury.

Fellow-lithographers, wake up! Quit fooling! Recognize the fact that you are in the midst of an irrepressible class conflict, in which all the sophistry of the capitalist class is used to your undoing. Wake up! Read socialist literature. Realize your position and the historic mission of your class. The present dull times furnish the bosses their opportunity. With the busy times the scabs and Good Government will be made to feel the pinch of the shoe that the capitalists have made for them, and they will kick. It is the nature of capitalism to force its own destruction. Then will be our opportunity. Don't utilize it on the same rotten old plan, with the same rotten old leaders. Organize on class lines—on the lines of the antagonistic interests of capital and labor—as taught and put into practice by the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance and the Socialist Labor Party. Victory will then be ours.

Sennefelder, Jr.

REVOLTS OF THE POOR

A Troy Audience Learns Wherein Those Of the Past Differ From Those of The Present

Under the auspices of Section Troy, S. L. P., a lecture was delivered last Sunday evening, in Tibbet's Hall, by James Connolly. Subject: "Revolts of the Poor—A Neglected Field of Human History."

Comrade Boland was chosen chairman. After calling attention to the difference between the capitalist press and the official organ of the S. L. P., The People, Comrade Boland spoke briefly of the competition between the members of the working class, caused by the capitalist system, and defined the position of the Socialist Labor Party, as opposed to the Democratic and Republican parties. He urged the workers earnestly to interest themselves in the S. L. P., which party alone represents their class interest. He then presented the speaker of the evening.

Comrade Connolly said in part: I propose to deal briefly with a few of those great uprisings of the poor against their oppressors, which have marked the course of history; to show their significance, and to show also wherein they resembled the modern revolt of the working class, Socialism, and also wherein they differed from it. * * * I propose to deal with certain social phenomena which the average historian dismisses, with as brief a notice as he can, but which every historian of repute chronicles in no matter how prefunctory a manner.

This means that it is recognized that there has been in all countries, in successive centuries, revolts against that established order of things in which the few benefit at the expense of the many. It means more. There is a common, old and oft repeated, saying, "Whatever is, is for the best." Often used against the Socialists, it is pointless and useless even when accepted. Thus it says that the present order of rich and poor exists, therefore "it is for the best." But then it is open to us to point out that the revolt against the existing order also exists; therefore, by the same line of reasoning, it also "is for the best." When capitalism or social oppression is defended as the result of the growth of centuries, we can point out, if we know the things this lecture hopes to familiarize you with, that the revolt against social oppression was present at the birth of its opponent, and has kept even pace with him ever since.

Comrade Connolly said he preferred to discuss the revolts of the Middle Ages rather than those of earlier periods, as the proofs were more easily obtained. To show that revolts of this kind occurred previous to the Middle Ages, he quoted an instance of a plebeian uprising in Ireland 2,000 years ago, and mentioned the fact that the ancient Gaelic historian, who wrote history in the interest of the ruling class, alluded to it as a rebellion of the common and rascally people of the kingdom; quite like the modern capitalist press account of a working class revolt in our own time.

Connolly cited the instance of the rising of the peasants of France in 1356, when the feudal class of that country was beaten by feudal England; as soon as the peasants revolted, the feudal class of both nations united and put down the peasant movement with every possible brutality.

The well planned and well organized revolt in England, headed by John Ball and Watt Tyler, was then analyzed to show that the people were not class-conscious, but depended upon a leader, who, when treacherously slain by King Richard, confidingly accepted their leader's assassin as their ruler, and were by him reduced to a lower stage of servility than before.

The speaker then showed how in Bohemia, while Catholic and Protestant feudal factions were fighting for supremacy, the commons revolted, when the rival factions of feudalism united in exterminating the class who had dared to rise.

The Peasants War, which began in the latter portion of the fifteenth century, was ably handled, and, in closing his lecture, Connolly drew a sharp line between the objective point of these old revolutionists and the modern S. L. P., saying that the revolts of the past were in most instances inspired by a desire to go back to Bible times, if possible; practice living together, eating together, etc., etc., while the up-to-date S. L. P. means to advance far beyond the accumulated rubbish of the past, and create new conditions for a new race of men.

A stormy night was no doubt responsible for a small attendance, but the lecture was attentively listened to and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Questions were answered satisfactorily, and one subscriber for the Weekly People was secured.

Press Committee Section Troy N. Y.,
S. L. P.
May 16.

KANGAROOISM ON THEMSELVES.

Rupture In The Chicago So-called Socialist Party.

Chicago, Ill., May 16—The below clipping from to-day's "Daily News" portrays the situation here in Chicago among the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party. Incidentally it shows that the Chicago wing of the Volkszeitung Kangaroos, here represented by Thomas Morgan, are at their old trick—now among themselves—of resorting to "Kangaroo Court" methods of disorder and anarchy to put upon Socialism the stamp of freakishness and dishonor.

M. S.

[From Chicago Daily News, May 16, 1904]

Dissention Over Platform Has Caused Socialist Party Split in Cook County.

Dissensions over the platform adopted at the socialist national convention at Brand's hall has led to a split in the party in Cook county.

The cause of the rupture is attributed by 'the radical faction, which opposes the platform, to the action of the "conservatives" in holding a "rump" convention of the county central committee yesterday afternoon and ousting the regular officers. Thomas J. Morgan is credited with managing the coup by which Secretary Harold Lindgren and Treasurer J. C. Alderson were turned out of power. At this "rump" convention twenty-nine persons managed the deal by which E. M. Stangland was made secretary.

Anticipating seizure of the records at headquarters, 42 River street, F. W. Knoche and Lindgren, the deposed secretary, ran at full speed to the place and took possession of them, pending action by a mass-meeting to be held at Ulrich's hall next Sunday. Prediction is made that yesterday's quarrel will spread throughout the socialist party in the United States. F. W. Knoche said it would disrupt it.

"All there was to the affair was the discharge of minority representatives from office and the election of men who are socialists and not anarchists," said Mr. Morgan. "The other fellows are not in accord with our national platform. They believe in physical force and not in an educationl campaign to bring about an adjustment of wrongs."

IMPORTANT TO THE MASSACHUSETTS SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

Comrades:—The national convention of the party will be held in New York City early in July. Massachusetts will send there five delegates. All sections and members at large are requested to send to the undersigned the assessment of $1, for each member in good standing, called for by the general committee of the party, to defray delegate's expenses, not later than June 25, and at the same time return monies and unsold Amsterdam Congress stamps, so that the matter may be closed and the money collected remitted at once.

Fraternally,
Michael T. Berry, Secretary,
Massachusetts S. L. P., 99 1-2 Chestnut street, Lynn, Mass.

INDIANA'S TICKET

E. J. DILLON, OF MARION, THE S. L. P. CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR.

Growth of State Vote Despite Great Handicaps— Speaker to Tour the State —Action on Party Press and National Convention.

Governor:
E. J. DILLON
of Marion.
Lieutenant-Governor:
ERNEST VIEWEGH
of Bridgeport.
Electors-at-Large:
O. P. Stoner, of Claypool.
Chris. Schaad, of Evansville.

The State Committee was instructed to fill balance of ticket and to refer same to membership for approval.

The Indiana State Convention of the Socialist Labor Party came to order at 10.30 A. M. Sunday, May 15, in headquarters of Section Indianapolis.

Comrades H. Richards and R. Small were elected temporary chairman and secretary, respectively.

Comrades E. J. Dillon and John Burkhardt were chosen a committee on credentials, which committee reported the following members entitled to seats in the convention, namely:—from Marion, E. J. Dillon, M. Duttine and Louis Pfefferle; from Claypool, O. P. Stoner, and from Indianapolis, J. Burkhardt, Theo. Bernine, R. Small, Hugh Richards and Frank Janke.

Report was accepted and delegates seated.

An order of business proposed by the State Committee was next adopted and the convention then proceeded to elect permanent chairman and secretary, which resulted in the election of Comrades Richards and Janke, respectively.

The convention next proceeded to the consideration of the platform. Comrade Burkhardt moved to accept the National platform for the State campaign, which motion was carried by an unanimous vote.

The State Committee was authorized and instructed to formulate an address to the working class of this State; this address to be distributed broadcast with platform.

In recognition of the valuable services rendered to the party in the past by our retired State secretary, Comrade Viewegh, the convention voted to give him voice without vote in the convention; though not being an elected delegate.

Comrade Viewegh then gave a verbal report of the work done in this State during the years 1902, 1903.

He showed that in spite of the fact that we were greatly handicapped, through lack of funds, in carrying out our plans of agitation, that our vote increased from 600 in 1900 to nearly 1800 in 1902.

He further reported that during the past two years but three outside speakers could be brought into the State for work, namely: Comrades De Leon, Connolly and Cox, only one of whom (Cox), visited other points than the city of Indianapolis.

After dwelling for a time on minor matters of local interest he made the following report of the financial condition of the State organization for the two years ending this day, May 15, 1904.

Total Receipts....................	$130.22
Total Expenditures.............	109.98
	$ 20.24
Refund to Com. Viewegh on account of error................	11.47
Balance on hand................	$ 8.77

The above report was accepted by the convention as read.

The question of raising Campaign Fund was next taken up and it will be left to each section to devise its own method of raising funds.

Reports showed, however, that Section Marion has so far pledged $25.00, Evansville, $6.00, Indianapolis, $50.00, with more to be heard from. Member-at-large, O. P. Stoner of Claypool, donated $1.56 to the fund, which was paid at convention.

The State Committee reported that it intended to send out an agent for the party press and a speaker for four or five months, beginning in June or July, provided the necessary fund can be raised, and all sections were urged to use every honorable means in their power to make our plan a thorough success.

Indianapolis was again chosen the seat of State Committee, and Comrade F. Janke was elected State secretary and treasurer.

Motion was made that delegate to the National Convention be instructed to use his own judgment in matter of recon

(Continued on page 6.)

The Movement in Italy

[This article is from a capitalist paper, the New York "Evening Post," whose correspondent from Rome, despite his capitalist bias, presents with substantial accuracy the struggle that is going on in Italy between the reactionary and the revolutionary wings of the Socialist Movement. Just because the writer and publisher are capitalists, great is the significance of their recognition of the importance in Italy to the struggle between the "Reformists" and the "Revolutionists," and of no little interest is their obvious though suppressed sympathy for the "Reformists."]

Rome, April 24.—The importance of the Socialistic organization in the eyes of this nation may be deduced from the fact that, as soon as the Congress of Socialists, to be held in Bologna on the 8th of April, was announced, all the principle journals devoted a series of articles to the discussion of the history of Socialism in Italy; and that, during the sittings of the Congress, the ultra-monarchical *Nazione* of Florence and the *Giornale d'Italia* of Rome, relegating the Russo-Japanese war, the advent of the German Emperor, the preparation for the reception of Loubet, even the Nasi scandal and the report of the Benadir inquiry, to the third and fourth pages, gave up the entire first and often the second to the discussions of the congress, finishing up each day with a leading article on the chances of the prevalence now of this, now of that, party of Socialists. The special interest of the general public is explained by the widespread desire to ascertain which party would obtain the majority of votes—whether the evolutionists, headed by Turati and Bissolati, who maintain that the rights and liberties of the proletaries, the amelioration of their moral, mental, and physical conditions, can be secured only gradually, by successive substantial reforms, to be attained by working within the limits and by use of the instruments of the social structure as it exists to-day, by taking part in the communal, provincial, and State organizations, by availing of the assistance of other parties, by supporting a ministry inclined to concede or to adopt a proposed reform, would prevail; or whether the revolutionary party, which rejects all such instruments and sees no chance for the proletaries save in the destruction of all existing institutions, the total demolition of the capitalist and the *borghesia,* and the advent to power of the proletaries *en bloc.*

The ascendency of the revolutionists, though denounced in the last congress at Imola, has been virtually increasing since the direction of the party fell into the hands of Ferri, who succeeded Bissolati as editor of the *Avanti,* the daily organ of the Socialists in Rome. Not that Ferri has ever admitted himself to be an out-and-out revolutionist, as does Labriola; but his actions prove him to be so, and his influence on the masses, impatient through suffering and credulous through ignorance, has led them to distrust more and more the efforts of the reformers, to incline increasingly to violent measures, to reckless strikes, to impotent resistance resulting in bloodshed and arrests, and to increasing friction with the employers of labor—with the effect of diminishing sympathy for their sufferings on the part of individualists and classes hitherto inclined to assist them. Yet Ferri has never scored a success by his agitation. Moreover, during the "universal strike" at Rome he "sat upon the fence," whereas he might have prevented that disastrous and criminal struggle, detailed in a former letter to the *Nation,* which resulted in the demolition of its chief author, Parpagnoli.

The convocation of a congress earlier than had been intended was promoted by the chiefs of the extreme sections, and especially by the reformers; seeing that the indecision of the working class and agricultural organizations, produced by the contending currents, paralyzed all attempts to carry out the reforms pronounced urgent and indispensable, and must in the end plunge the masses into anarchy. Ferri, when the congress was decided on, notified his adhesion if, as a preliminary, the absolute unity of the Socialistic party should be proclaimed, and a motion was presented at the opening of the congress. No! said the reformers. First let us state our intentions and programme clearly and sincerely; then if there be a possibility of working together on parallel lines towards the same goal, we shall gladly avoid an open and public rupture, which will, we are aware, dismay the uncultured masses. But if such proclamation of unity is to fetter our determined line of action, make us responsible for doctrines and deeds which we deny and deplore, then we shall choose separation as the least evil, convinced that our policy in action will bring over to our ranks many who now are wavering between that action and the unrealized methods of the revolutionists (alias anarchists). The desire of the Reformists was that, after a simple declaration of the several methods of the two parties, each being left free to follow their separate paths, the congress would discuss the important questions proposed at Imola to be studied and reported on by special commissioners, viz., the railway problem (governmental or private ownership); the tributary problem; the abolition of the octroi or city tax on food; the substitution of a progressive income tax; the amount of income to be exempted; labor contracts; the industrial and agricultural organizations; the attitude to be assumed towards the influx of congregationists expelled from France; the problem of primary and secondary education, the really popular school for the masses; the crusade against alcoholism; the attitude of Socialists towards freemasonry, etc. The reporters had performed their tasks conscientiously, and each argument was of importance to the working classes, but no time was found for the bare reading, still less for the discussion of the report; the whole of the four days being occupied with the speeches of the adherents of the extreme parties, and still more with the introduction of other two "tendencies" suggested by a Left Centre and a Right Centre, new "fences" constructed by Ferri.

After the unanimous election of Andrae Costa, the veteran Republican and sincere Socialist, and two vice-presidents, Bissolati was called upon to present the order of the day to the reformers (or Reformists, as they are called). It was brief and succinct:

"The Congress reaffirms the autonomy of the Socialists as the party of the proletary class, whose object is its redemption from the oppressive tyranny of capitalism; and that it will retain this character exclusively, whatever direction the bourgeois government may assume. It declares, moreover, that, while preserving this distinctive characteristic, it will lend its support to ministries which offer sufficient guarantees for the conquest by the proletaries of those reforms of which at a given moment they have the most urgent need. As to existing institutions, the Congress declares that the party will continue to work within and by means of them, reserving the right to work for their overthrow if and when they present themselves as an obstacle to the proletary re-vindication."

In his brief speech Bissolati referred to the demand of their adversaries that the party should clearly and decisively affirm its antimonarchical character, and propagate the conviction that proletary redemption and monarchy are irreconcilable; but the reformers had already declared not only that the finality of the proletary redemption could not be attained under a monarchy, but that not all the reforms proposed by the radicals in their Roman congress could be carried into execution (for example, the principle of eligibility to all the offices of State, including, of course, that of kingship.)

The order of the day presented by Labriola in the name of the revolutionists was as follows:

"Reaffirming the permanent and intransigent revolutionary character of the party of the proletariat in opposition to the bourgeois state (the term *borghesia* now comprises all classes outside the proletary), the Congress declares that the transformation of the political organization of the proletariat into a parliamentary, opportunist, constitutional and possibly monarchical organization is a degeneration of the Socialistic spirit, inconsistent with the spirit of class warfare, with the very essence of the conquest by the proletaries of the Government (*pubblici poteri*). Hence it repudiates collaboration with any other class—not only participation in any monarchical government, but also systematic support of any bourgeois government, whatsoever tendencies it may evince, even if reforms proposed may be partially useful to the working classes."

Then succeeded an explicit command to combat monarchy in all its manifestations, to pursue the propaganda against it among the masses. The congress was called upon to reaffirm its resolve to renounce none of its offensive and defensive weapons against the Government, reserving methods of violence in case of necessity.

The two orders of the day being put to the vote, that of Bissolati obtained a fourth more adhesion than that of Labriola, thus confirming the preponderance of the reforming over the revolutionary theories. Neither, however, having received the absolute majority of votes necessary, the orders of the day of the two Centres were submitted—Rigola's with a marked tendency towards the reformers, and Ferri's with a decided adhesion to the doctrines of the revolutionists save as to the use of violence; and the latter, after a debate in which Turati also spoke with severity and some sarcasm, carried off a quarter more votes than the former, and victory was proclaimed for the revolutionists.

The public discussion of the results of the congress continued with unabated vigor during the interval between its close and the arrival of Loubet; the revolutionists accentuating their refusal to co-operate with other classes by forbidding Socialists to participate even in the ballot between the republican and monarchical candidates for the vacant college of Forll—thus securing the election of the monarchical candidate by eight votes—while the Reformists continue to form and organize sectional and regional committees based on perfect autonomy, so that while all accept the fundamental doctrines of Socialism, Sardinian Socialists provide for the special needs of their province, even as do Milan, Bologna, etc., and all await the presentations of the new organic reforms promised by the Giolitti Ministry. The nominal victory is for Ferri, but the substantial results are for the Reformists, who, by working within and without Parliament for the maintenance of pacific organization, will support the Radicals, the Republicans, and the ministerial party in promoting and carrying into effect the urgent reforms which have hitherto been retarded. The organization of the southern provinces, which Zanardelli had so much at heart, will be seriously studied, and there seems some hope that more success will attend the efforts of the present Ministry than has even been attained by its predecessors. On this the heart of the king is bent, and he not only urges his Ministry on the reforming path, but separately and diligently studies each bill, each plan of reform, before giving his signature to any.—J. W. M.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR CABINET

[The below is a translation of an article in the Berlin "Vorwaerts" sent to that paper from London. As far as the article goes it is correct and will help American readers to understand the situation in Australia; incidentally it will go far towards removing the false notions that capitalist papers have been sedulously setting a-float whereby the capers of their pet fakir-led pure and simple trades unions are presented as Socialism. The article, nevertheless, is imperfect. By not a line does the fact appear that there is in existence a truly militant party of Socialism—the Socialist Labor Party of Australia; that that party polled 25,000 votes, a strong increase; and that the so-called Labor Party, broadly but wrongly designated as "Socialist," is so inveterate a foe of the S. L. P. that its representatives caused a law to be passed whereby severe financial sacrifice is imposed upon the S. L. P. before it can appear on the field with its candidates. These facts, known to readers of The People, through the recent article in these columns from the Secretary of the Australian Socialist Labor Party, are an essential background to the article in the "Vorwaerts." The "Vorwaerts" correspondents from English speaking countries seem unable to size up the situation surrounding them.]

In a democratic country like Australia, the result of the federal elections could not help but bring about sooner or later a change in the composition of the cabinet. As is well known the result of the election was as follows:

House of Representatives

Government party (protectionists), 26; Opposition (free traders), 27; Labor Party (Socialists), 22, total, 75.

Senate.

Government party, 8; Opposition, 14; Labor Party, 14, total, 36.

The protectionists in general favor labor legislation; the free traders are liberal individualists, who, of course, expect very little from the development of government activity, while the labor party endeavors to promote Socialism.

The labor party, which is of most interest to us, has only one point in common with the social democracy: both demand an improvement of the conditions of labor, but they differ in their final objects and general views. The Australian labor party has come to the conclusion that the methods of English trades unionism and the revolutionism of European Socialism are not suitable for Australia. It, therefore, has adopted only the economic objects of English trades unionism and the political tactics of European Socialism, to which it has added the ideals and demands emanating specifically from Australian life.

On the program concerning the elections in December, published by Mr. Watson, as president, and Mr. Stewart, as secretary of the labor party, the following appear as the two leading principles:

First—The conservation of Australia for the best elements of the white race.

Second—The obtainment of satisfactory conditions of life for the masses.

These are the gauges by which all the demands of the labor party are measured; of Socialism and the class struggle there is not and cannot be any thought in them.

The Australian labor party does not presume to transform the present society into a Socialistic one, but rather to call into life an Australian nation, which should be a representative of the best Anglo-Saxon virtues. It therefore takes from Socialistic criticism only that which is directed against the suppression of the individual and the oppression of the masses, like the tyranny of capital, concentrated in a few hands, the harsh profit system, etc.

They are not Socialistic experiments, as commonly supposed, but national experiments, which concern Australia; it is the rise of a national democracy and not a Socialistic regeneration of an old society which takes place. This seems to me to be the meaning of contemporary Australian history.

The Australian labor party is imbued with this idea and only when this is understood, an understanding of the politics of this party may be reached; when viewed in any other way it appears like a great contradiction.

The Socialists are dissatisfied, claiming this idea to be narrow, bourgeois, and of racial pride; the capitalists are dissatisfied, claiming it retards or makes impossible boundless competition, cheap labor and the rapid augmentation of population.

After the above, the fact that the labor party stands nearer to the protectionists than to the free traders, does not require an explanation.

In the first federal parliament of 1901-3—as is generally known, the federation of the Australian colonies took place only in 1900—the protectionists ruled; they formed the first cabinet of the Australian commonwealth and are therefore called the government party. The elections of December 16th did not result in an absolute majority for any of the three parties and the protectionists remained in power for the reason that the labor party mainly is also in favor of protection. Thus the principle of protection was in the majority.

But on questions of social politics these two parties do not agree. The protectionists do not look as far ahead as the labor men. One of the principal demands of the Australian labor party is the introduction of compulsory arbitration courts. The government party favored the labor party only in so far as private enterprises are concerned, agreeing to the establishment of arbitration and conciliation offices for the prevention of strikes in such cases only, but opposing any change as to the present conditions of the laborers employed by the State.

This difference of opinion resulted in a cabinet crisis on April 20th.

The bill regarding arbitration courts was in debate and the labor party proposed an amendment, including within its provisions the laborers of the State; but as the government declared the amendment unacceptable, the labor representatives united with a part of the opposition and defeated the government with thirty-eight votes as against twenty-nine. Upon that the cabinet resigned and General Governor Lord Nordcote invited Mr. Watson leader of the labor party to form a cabinet. On April 26th Watson succeeded in forming a ministry, composed of seven labor representatives and one liberal lawyer.

The new cabinet stands unique in the parliamentary history of the civilized world. It is a genuine workingmen's cabinet. Still it is difficult to say, if it was good policy on the part of Watson to form a cabinet without commanding a majority in the federal parliament. It is not impossible that the crisis and the ready support of Watson by the opposition, was nothing but a trick, planned by the two bourgeois parties, in order to demonstrate to the public the impossibility of a labor cabinet. The fact that none of the bourgeois leaders was willing to enter the labor cabinet seems to favor this view. It should be remembered that the two bourgeois parties have fifty-three representatives in parliament as against twenty-two supporters of the cabinet. They are enabled therefore to unseat the government at any time.

Still the Australian labor leaders may be supposed to be clear as to the situation. If in spite of it, they have undertaken the formation of a cabinet, they must have gained the conviction that they will be permitted to at least bring into force an arbitration court law and perhaps also an old-age pension law.

A long lease of life cannot be prophesized for the labor government. The cabinet will do its best to prove the ability of the workingmen to govern and then there will be a dissolution of parliament and new elections. The labor party will then appeal to the country for a solid majority.

From Rags to Diamonds

Development of A Labor-Fakir—Pinkerton Man and "Labor Leader" Formerly "Bowery Bum" Now Dude—A Metamorphosis At the Expense of Workingmen—National Officers of the Brewers' Union Apparently Only the Boot-Blacks of the Fakirs—Vile Character of the "Volkszeitung."

(From the "Socialistische Arbeiter Zeitung" translated for the "Daily People" by Gotthold Ollendorff.)

N. Y. April 10th.

Can there be a more despicable creature than a Pinkerton ruffian?

Any progressive workingman will under ordinary circumstances reply in the negative to this question, when he recalls the horrible murders of workingmen committed by the mercenary Pinkerton riff-raff.

Still in spite of all this the ranks of the brewery workers of New York contain a crook, compared to whom the ordinary Pinkerton ruffian must be considered a gentleman.

This crook is a Pinkerton-man and labor-fakir at the same time, his name is Wm. H. Graven and he occupies the positions of Secretary and "Walking Delegate" of Beer-Drivers' Union No. 23.

When this individual some years ago appeared for the first time as a delegate to the "Joint Executive Committee" of the brewery-workers, he might have served as an artist's-model of the typical "Bowery-bum." In rags from head to foot, collarless, unkempt, thus he represented the beer-drivers of New York. None of the delegates present will ever forget the appearance Graven made at that time.

How changed all this is to-day! The Bowery-tramp has been transformed into a 5th Avenue dude, whom no stranger would suspect of being a beer-driver; tailor-made clothes have taken the place of the old rags and costly diamonds glitter on hands and shirtbosom, covered with filth before. Surely his former income as a beer-driver has as little to do with this metamorphosis, as his quite liberal salary of $25, which he enjoys as secretary and agent of the union. Diamonds are very expensive, especially gems of the clearest water, such as Graven "sports," but—every man has his hobby—and when, after the signing of the pool-brewers-contracts the "boodle" was divided, one may be sure he received his share in full. "Chacqu'un a son goût!"

Graven dotes on diamonds and pearls, Pommer prefers real-estate and sandbagger Huber is "tickled" with his position as "walking delegate."

Still such occasional "picayune" resources do not seem to be able to supply the modest wants of such a gentleman as Mr. Graven, and he therefore ekes out a living by serving as a Pinkerton-detective!

Not long ago, through quite a few newspapers there ran a report which clearly showed, that a complete system of espionage has been established in the United States, which keeps the capitalists in perfect touch with the labor movement. It is rumored that even the Executive-Committee of the American Federation of Labor is not free from spies, but without doubt, according to his own declaration, Wm. H. Graven is such a paid spy.

It was in the summer of 1902, when, as mentioned before, the corruptionists planned to destroy the Irish Brewers-Union No. 59, because it refused to sanction the miserable pool-contracts. Malcolm's brewery in Brooklyn was singled out as the first establishment where the members of Union No. 59 should be victimized and the first attempt in this regard was made by a Brooklyn corruptionist by the name of Peter Hoffman, who, although a "sleek article," still failed to successfully negotiate with the administration of the concern.

He then addressed himself directly to the workingmen and essayed to induce them to join unions No. 24 and 69, in which he plies his corrupt machinations. By way of answer he was chased out of the brewery by a well directed stream of water.

After the lapse of half an hour, Graven, the New York fakir, made his appearance and tried the same game. Exasperated by this persistency, some of the workingmen attempted to put him out, when he drew a revolver and threatened to shoot down anybody who should approach him. Upon this a policeman was called to arrest him, but Graven exclaimed: "I am a Pinkerton agent and have the same right to carry and use a revolver as any officer of police."

He then showed to the officer a paper, after which the latter declined to arrest him and went his way. An affidavit embodying the facts above mentioned, has been made and sworn to before a notary-public by one of those present, Michael Murphy.

At that time the "Brauerzeitung" took up the matter—since then a special convention of the brewers-union has refused—declaring him to be a convicted rogue—to admit him as a delegate and still this great union has not gone to work and put this rascal "out of business." On the contrary, his position to-day is more assured than ever, and the International Secretaries, when in New York, are right glad to celebrate "joyous holidays" with "honest people" of his caliber. It is disgusting!

At the special convention of the brewers-union in Cincinnati, the delegate of Firemen's Union No. 30, openly accused Graven of being in the pay of Pinkerton, upon which Graven threatened to have him arrested immediately upon his return to New York, but thus far he still walks unmolested the New York pavement.

Even during the convention Graven was unable to repress his Pinkerton-nature. He always appeared armed at the meetings, until by a resolution he was deprived of his revolver, as his neighbors refused to be seated in his vicinity, after, by accident, his gun and cartridges had dropped out of his pocket. Of course, it would have been better logic to throw out bodily the would-be-murderer, for he was not present as a delegate.

As "walking delegate" of the Beer-drivers union, it is Graven's duty to conserve the interests of the members and how well he fulfills this duty the following case will instance:

Some months ago a stableman of F. & M. Schaefer's brewery unloaded ashes into the North river. While guiding backwards, the horse balked and horse, wagon and driver fell in the river. The animal perished, while the driver was rescued with much trouble. The wagon also was recovered. The man was discharged and complained to the union and then Graven acted in his behalf, securing a reinstatement, after the man had agreed to pay one-half of the value of the horse. Now then, if, as is usually the case, the horse was insured and therefore the brewery lost almost nothing, the latter, by the misfortune of the stableman, has made in the bargain a good "peesiness." Furthermore, it should be born in mind, that a stableman has no business what-so-ever on top of a wagon, and that therefore the entire responsibility rests with the business management of the brewery.

Such a "walking delegate" is surely a "good thing" for the brewery-bosses, and the drivers will have all reason in the world to greatly rejoice, when in the heat of the coming summer their horses will break down! The bosses will find plenty reasons to saddle the responsibility upon the drivers,—they would be very foolish if they would not exploit Graven's "settlement" as a valuable precedent. Of course, it cannot be ascertained, if Graven "made" something by the above mentioned affair, but that his pockets were "lined" in the following described, crooked transaction, can be proven.

Beer-Drivers-Union No. 23 had closed it's books—that is, temporarily, on account of the many idle, no new members were to be accepted. But Graven, under the pretence, that they were members of Union No. 31, dissolved by the last convention, smuggled men into No. 23. These men, it was stated, were transferred free of charge, but, as in reality they were not members of any union,—they were forced to pay in secret an initiation-fee of ten dollars each to Graven, who, of course, "boodled" the whole money. It really seems, as if the closing of the books has only been a trick for the purpose of making a little money, "on the side!" Beer-drivers when will the scales drop from your eyes?

Quite a decent profit, Graven only made lately and it came about in the following manner:

His union was represented in the so-called workingmen's secretariat, but he induced it to dissolve this connection and make an agreement with another lawyears' association. This in itself would be nothing out of the ordinary, for the "secretariat" also, is nothing but a manger for certain people. The members of the unions represented have to pay all expenses and in return receive legal aid in wage-cases or similar trivial affairs and that is all. In the same way as the "Volkszeitung" is allied with the German labor fakirs, the "secretariat" is of assistance to the official cliques of the unions.

The abused member of a union will vainly invoke the help of the "secretariat," but his tormentors will be promptly protected.

The cases of Valentine Wagner and other brewery-workers of Brooklyn, who were compelled to apply to the courts, clearly prove the truth of the foregoing assertion. But this has nothing to do with this affair, and I will simply state the facts at issue.

The other association, with which the beer-drivers union now connected itself, receives one dollar a year from each member, payable in advance, and of the total amount thus paid, Corruptionist Graven has received, in accordance with an agreement, a commission of over 200 dollars, which fully explains the endeavors of this "gentleman" in behalf of the change. Naturally Graven considers this as perfectly legitimate business, and threatens to sue anybody, who should doubt it.

Bartered like a drove of cattle for the sake of a percentage! What a beautiful testimonial for "organized beer-drivers!"

These facts come to light by the offer of the same conditions by the above association to the officers of a bakers-union, but such little things do not disturb the equanimity of the unspeakable Graven.

It should be self-evident that also the "Volkszeitunz" had no remarks to make. Indeed it even did not kick when lately at a banquet of the mixed section of the Central Fakirated Union, the same Graven literally threw it's reporter Hoffman out, while at the same time admitting all the quill-pushers of the capitalistic press.

The despicable hag even did not dare to complain about the ingratitude of such labor fakirs! She knows why. And Graven knows too, why he may treat like dogs the "Volkszeitung" representatives.

The prostitute of 184 William Street has been revealed in her true colors at last! N. N.

NIEDERMEIER WITHDRAWS.

The case of Franz Niedermeier against Daniel De Leon before the Police Court in the Criminal Courts Building for criminal libel came up yesterday morning and was withdrawn by Niedermeier's attorney. De Leon was summoned last week, but the case was adjourned when it appeared that the complainant had not presented a sworn statement. The complainant was given until yesterday to present his sworn complaint. The sworn complaint did not materialize, and the summons was withdrawn. The complainant Niedermeier is one of the officers of Local No. 1 of the Brewery Union who made the recent contract with the brewery bosses, and against which contracts there has been so much indignation in the ranks of the employes.

RHODE ISLAND STATE CONVENTION.

A State convention of the S. L. P. of Rhode Island will be held on Sunday, May 29, 1904 at 2 P. M., at Arnold Post Hall, 84 Westminster street, Providence, R. I., for the purpose of electing a delegate to the National Convention and to transact such business as may legally come before the convention.

Members from all over the State are requested to be present.

Per order of the State Committee,
Secretary.

WAGES AND PRICES

[A criticism of James Connolly's views on wages as expressed in his article, "Wages, Marriage and the Church," appearing in The People of Sunday, April 3.]

Just a few words in regard to Connolly's criticism of an S. L. P. speaker stating from the platform that the prices of commodities rise in proportion to a rise in wages, and the Kang's quotation from Marx which seemed to refute the statement.

I remember the case well. It was a comrade in Kansas City. His answer created quite a discussion in Socialist circles and it is well that it is brought to the front again. A great many people read Marx's "Value, Price and Profit" over two or three times and think they have mastered the whole economic problem, when, in fact, they have only begun their study.

When Marx says that a rise in wages means a reduction in the profits of the capitalist class he first shows what a rise in wages is, using an illustration something like this: If a man is working ten hours a day and the amount of work that he does adds ten dollars to the value of the product, then, if he receives $3 per day there is $7 unpaid labor or profit which goes to his employer. If his wages are increased to $4, while the price of the commodity remains unchanged, there will be an increase of $1 in his wages and a corresponding decrease in the profits of his employer. But now let us suppose that the wages of the whole working class are increased this amount, giving every worker a rise of 33 1-3 per cent., would not this increase of purchasing power create a demand for these same products? Now, if there was a 33 1-3 per cent. greater demand for the merchandise the price would go away beyond the 33 1-3 per cent., temporarily at least.

The purchasing power of a people must advance before the price of produce can increase, except in cases where the country is embroiled in a fight for foreign markets wherein to unload the surplus products which are ever at hand.

Marx says distinctly that when a person buys anything he pays, on an average, its true value. But before saying this he has made it evident that the supply and demand of labor cannot possibly equilibrate, on account of the ever increasing displacement of labor by the machine. Therefore labor can never receive its true value under the present system.

Comrade Connolly's argument is the same as that of the Kangs. He assumes that the wages of the working class increase. The speaker in Kansas City was evidently confused. The Kang who asked the question is a good example of the pure and simpler who cannot distinguish between the whole working class and one trade. He thinks that by bettering the condition of the members of his union he betters the condition of the class.

A Kang once asked me the question: "If the Government owned the Standard Oil Trust would it not benefit the working class, since it would sell them oil at 2¼ cents a gallon instead of 20 cents?" I answered that if the working class could live 17¾ cents cheaper a head per day, their wages would be decreased in that proportion. For the workers, as a class, are only allowed enough of their product to provide them with subsistence and to enable them to reproduce their kind. All this so-called raising of wages is imaginary.

The capitalists can only raise prices by virtue of a greater demand for produce. When there is no demand, prices will naturally be reduced, as products do not increase in value with age, and it costs money, or labor power, to keep them in warehouses. In the cases of large trusts the capitalists control the output, thus making a scarcity in that particular commodity, but this can not be done permanently on account of other large capitalists setting up an opposition. Sell they must, or lose their profits; for a merchant can not lay his goods on the shelf and wait for prices to go up. With a few exceptions the longer he keeps his commodity, the greater the decrease in value. Sell he must or go to the wall. Just so with the laborer; he must sell his labor power every week, or go on the tramp. If he goes on a strike there are ten to take his place. If his job is not taken in his own town it will happen in some other place, perhaps even on the other side of the continent, and by men belonging to the same union too, if he is working for a large corporation.

For instance, in the miners' strike in Pennsylvania and Colorado, while the United Mine Workers of America were on a strike in Pennsylvania their brother-unionists in Indiana, Ohio, and other states fulfilled the contracts of the mines in which the strike occurred. The same thing happened in Colorado, and is bound to happen as long as workingmen allow the labor fakir to make their contracts, compelling them to mine coal regardless of the purpose for which it is to be used, even to the breaking of a strike. And in striking against a small concern it is no better. It is easy to get black legs on account of the high dues which the unions have imposed, prohibiting many from joining. The drawing of the color line, and in some cases even the foreign line has the same effect. Thus with the constantly improved labor saving machine making it possible for children to replace an ever increasing number of men, the working class are bound to receive less and less of the product of their labor and find it ever harder and harder to keep steadily employed.

I have stated that products will not rise in price unless there is a greater demand through the increased purchasing power of the people. Now to account for an increased purchasing power in company with ever lowering wages seems impossible at first. But let us go back to the panic of 1893-98. We know the real cause of this panic notwithstanding the confused and freakish reasons given by the capitalist press. We recognize the old bug-a-boo, "Overproduction." More had been produced than the workers could buy back. And when Brother Capital found that the retail houses could not pay him for his product because the petty bourgeois could not pay the wholesaler through having no further markets to exploit, he shut down, or assigned to some richer Brother. Thus about 8,000,000 working people were thrown out of employment. They existed in some mysterious manner until the "overproduction" was disposed of. At that period I knew, personally, skilled mechanics, such as moulders, carpenters, engineers, tailors, patternmakers, and lithographers, who gladly accepted work in California, the land of gold, at one dollar per day, only working two or three days a week at that.

These low wages and the eagerness with which the skilled workers snapped up the jobs, made it easy for the American capitalists to compete with the foreign, giving American capitalists greatest impetus in foreign competition.

At this stage of affairs the price of commodities like that of labor was at its lowest ebb. But as these 8,000,000 idle men, or a great part of them, gradually began to get work, there was just that much greater demand for the commodities which working men require. The demand for these products stimulated the market and the prices went up higher and higher until they got beyond the worker's purchasing power, and when the Yanko-Spanko war broke out it shot the prices away beyond their real value. The result of this was a great many strikes and a monetary increase in wages, although the workers could buy back ever less and less of their product. And to-day when the pure and simplers are shouting themselves hoarse about high wages and the prosperity of the working class, they are on the threshold of a famine amidst plenty in comparison to which the panic of 1893 will seem like a feast.

Now the part which the S. T. & L. A. will play in this will certainly redound to the benefit of the wage slave. The constant agitation of its members will be convincing proof of their foresight, in direct contrast to the pure and simplers, who boast that the labor problem can be solved by them and their kind. It will show that the pure and simple unions are at best only a feeble barrier between wageslavery and coolydom; but if guided like the S. T. & L. A. into the right channels they might become a strengthening buttress to the working class, in so far as they would teach the worker the only remedy which will permanently benefit him, the overthrow of capitalism, and the establishment of the Socialist Republic.

This same foresight, which is found only in the class-conscious S. L. P. and S. T. & L. A., will prevent them from falling into error as to when it is best to resist on the economic field, thus making impossible a long continued strike. Neither will they succumb to arbitration when on the verge of victory. All the energy now lost in impossible strikes, will revert to the propagation of Socialism. Recognizing that political organizations are only the reflection of economic class-interests, we, as class-conscious working men subscribe to the principles of the S. T. & L. A., and spurn with contempt the false position of the labor fakir that the class interests of the robber and the robbed are the same. We, the S. T. & L. A., are part and parcel of the S. L. P., hence it would be an utter impossibility for us to be ward heelers. We are composed exclusively of working men, conscious of our rights, and knowing how to attain them through the educational facilities of the S. L. P. and the use of the ballot.

FRED SIBERT.

San Francisco, Cal.

STRIKE RECORD

Report Of the Country's Industrial Trouble for 20 Years.

Washington, May 17.—The official report of the hearings before the House sub-committee of the Committee on Labor, held in April, has just been made public. The hearing was for the purpose of taking testimony bearing on a bill to create a national arbitration tribunal, to settle labor difficulties and strikes, and to define the duties and powers thereof.

The bill creates a national arbitration tribunal of six members, appointed by the President, to be free from direct or indirect pecuniary interest in matters arbitrated, to sit at Washington or elsewhere, as expedient and arbirate controversies concerning wages, hours of labor or conditions of employment involving any commerce with foreign nations or among States or Territories of the United States, when either party to the controversy files a petition of claims and demands, requesting investigation and agreeing to abide by decisions on merit.

The hearing or investigation resulted in the compilation of statistics concerning strikes, lockouts and other labor troubles that are very comprehensive and valuable. There are tables indicating the number of strikes in each State from January 1, 1881, to December 31, 1900; also the lockouts in each State for the same period. Other tables show the strikes and lockouts in the principal cities during the period named, as well as the establishments involved and the number of strikes and lockouts each industry suffered, the number of employes thrown out of employment in each line of manufacturing, as well as the total number of men and women strikers, and the results of the strikes and lockouts classified by establishments or lines of business. Additional tables indicate the instances in which the strikers failed to gain their point and when ordered and not ordered by organizations; the per cent. of establishments in which strikes succeeded partly, and failed in strikes ordered and not ordered by organizations; also the results for employes and the causes of strikes.

During the twenty years New York shows the largest number of strikes as well as the largest number of establishments affected, the number of strikes being 6,460 and the number of establishments affected being 37,845. Pennsylvania follows with 2,846 strikes and Illinois with 2,640 strikes. New Jersey had 805 strikes. As regards establishments affected by strikes, Illinois follows New York with 20,784, while Pennsylvania comes next with 18,438 strikes, In New Jersey they amounted to 3,209. The greatest number of employees thrown out of employment by reason of strikes is found in Pennsylvania, which shows, 1,666,043 for the twenty-year period, New York follows with 1,193,361; Illinois, 850,599; Ohio, 415,651, and Massachusetts with 348,470 employees who went out on strike. New Jersey had 150,123. Pennsylvania had an average of 83,302 employees who went out on strike each year during the twenty-year period.

The table showing strikes by industries indicates that the coal and coke men had more labor difficulties than in any other line of employment, 1,892,435 of them going out on strike during the period named. This is 31.05 per cent of the total number of employees who went on strikes. More than double the number of men engaged in the coal and coke industries struck than the number of strikers in all the building trades combined. They furnished 665,946 or 10.91 per cent of the total number of strikers. Those trades ranking next, in the order named, as furnishing the most strikers are the clothing men, 563,772; metals and metallic goods, 511,336; transportation, such as street railway and railway employees, 484,454; tobacco, 251,096; cotton goods, 212,209.

The printers in the entire country furnished two-thirds of one per cent of the total number of strikers. Paper and paper goods employees furnished only .03 per cent of the total number of strikers; watchmakers, .05 per cent; rope and bagging, .06 per csent; musical instruments, .11 per cent; brewing, .15 per cent: carriages and wagons, .20 per cent; agricultural implements, .23 per cent; rubber goods, .24 per cent; shipbuilding, .57 per cent; telegraph and telephone, .19 per cent, etc.

The total number of employees thrown out of employment in the United States on account of strikes for the twenty-year period named amounted to 6,105,694, or about 305,300 on an average each year. The wages lost for the entire period amounted to $257,863,478, and the strikers who lost this amount in wages received by way of assistance from the labor organizations, $16,174,793. Loss to employers, $122,731,121.

On account of the lockouts the employees lost in wages $48,819,745 and the employers lost $19,927,983. The employees received assistance from the labor organizations, on account of lockouts, $3,451,461. The number of establishments involved in strikes and lockouts was 127,442, while the number of employees involved in both amounted to 6,610,001.

CONVENTION QUESTIONS

I

To the Members of the S. L. P:—

In thinking over the various questions that are apt to come up at the convention, or should, in my opinion, it seems to me that the following are worth considering:

1.—National organizers sent out by the N. E. C., supported by a fund collected for that purpose. The only assured way of establishing and maintaining such, would be to raise the dues. Figuring on a basis of 2,000 members an increase of ten cents per member per month would net $200 per month, enough to send out and support at least two good organizers. With an assumed opposition of some permanency two good men (from the shops) could, I believe, be induced to take the stump. As it is now, hardly any one wants to quit a job for a few months work for the party, and it is not unreasonable either. National organizers are necessary because there is a vast amount of sentiment throughout the country in favor of such a movement as ours and the only way to get it organized is to go after it. If the proper kind of men are sent out they would be the means of encouraging what members we now have. My idea would be to send them principally into localities where we have organizations and places where what we have is weak. The various State Committees could co-operate with the N. E. C. in this matter by contributing finances whenever the organizers are sent in to organized States. The sale of literature and subscriptions to the party press would help to maintain such a plan. The country is big and varied enough as to climate to keep them busy throughout the year.

2.—The basis of representation to the National Convention should be based upon the actual membership in the party and not upon the vote of the general public. The reason for this is to be specific, for instance: The State of Illinois has a membership of about seventy-five, and is entitled (on account of a "Fly by night vote") to nine delegates. The State of Missouri has some fifty members and is entitled to but one delegate at the convention. The same inequality probably exists with other States.

3.—The construction of the N. E. C. The present plan may seem to many to be adequate and the best possible at this time. From what I saw while in New York at a meeting of the N. E. C. the present plan resolves itself into the national secretary for these reasons, first, to begin with the membership of this committee are workingmen (most of them) taken from the shops, who work every day and are naturally tired out when evening comes and are not apt to be in the right frame of mind to deliberate over any matter that is in the least complex or difficult. In addition to this, most of the members of this committee are expected to do various other kinds of work for the party, such as speaking and committee work; second, with the N. E. C., as it is at present, local conditions and internal affairs of the section where the seat is located are apt to be brought into prominence and obstruct the work of organization. As a substitute I would suggest that the N. E. C. be composed of five members, each from five different States that are within a section of the country that contains the most of the party membership, They to meet twice a month on Sundays at a central point. The expenses of those members to be borne by the entire membership of the party. To illustrate this. At this time under such an arrangement, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island or Pennsylvania would each be entitled to one member each. Each of these States could, I believe, send such a member. The members could attend, under such circumstances, with clear minds and the work of the committee would be more satisfactory than at present. All of these States are within six hours ride of New York City, which would be the most central point. The expense of sending would not be very great.

4.—A canvasser for the party press should be sent over the country periodically. The country is big enough and varied enough as to climate to keep him and the national organizers busy throughout the entire year.

Respectfully submitted.

Fraternally,
E. C. Dieckmann.

St. Louis, Mo., May 15.

II

To the Daily and Weekly People.—On the 18th inst., in The Daily People, I read Comrade Dieckman's letter: "Questions for the Convention." I have been watching and waiting, hoping that some one would strike that chord, so that I might get the chance to second the motion, at least. To my way of thinking, our comrade from St. Louis is right, at least on the matter of national organizers and the construction of the N. E. C.

Speaking in a general way, along the line which Comrade Dieckman has covered so splendidly, I wish to say that my experience in Massachusetts leads me to believe that the national organizer—and the more of him the better—is an acute necessity. But before we can do much along the line of keeping organizers on the road for the Party, we will have to raise the funds to do that, and, for one, I am heartily in favor of the plan proposed, viz.: raising the dues. In that way the expense is equally distributed over the entire membership, and that is the only correct method if we want an organization.

Experience shows me that funds to any great amount cannot be raised for such a purpose by voluntary subscription. It is all wrong. For awhile, when the enthusiasm is high, the money will come from the generous-hearted workers, while the others will let the willing ones put up the cash. In time, the willing ones get tired, as they not only have to put up the cash, but do the work as well, and, as a result, disaster overtakes in the end the most cherished plans that depends for its existence upon such shipshod methods to keep it alive.

I know that many of the members of the S. L. P. are against high dues. They often tell me that it breeds fakirs. For one, I am not averse to high dues; what I am against is the ill use of high dues or low dues either; and as for the matter of its breeding fakirs, I look on it this way: I am strongly inclined to the belief that the only bulwark that the S. L. P. can bank on to keep away fakirs, is an intelligent, perceptive, wide awake rank and file, who will know what ought to be, and will have the courage to enforce what they know to be, right.

From my experience in Massachusetts, both as an agitator and as the secretary of the S. E. C., I long ago made up my mind that the only thing to do was to put the dues high enough to meet the wants of the Party, and you cannot provide for these wants on voluntary offerings. Then again, it is well to remember that we are still living under capitalism, and that the men who do our work should be paid for what they do, whenever they are taken away from their trade, and no man who has a trade can afford to leave the shop and go out for a few weeks for the Party, and, when he gets through, have to spend much time and money hunting up another job. This is not the fight of one man, it is the battle of the working class for the freedom of that class; and I know of no good reason why the working class should not pay the bills contracted in doing the work. For one, I am heartily in favor of what Comrade Dieckman says on the matter, and my ideas are based on what I have seen and felt, and not on what I think privately on the matter.

On the matter of the N. E. C. and its construction, his argument is so obvious that I think we can afford to submit the case at this time without argument. I am not so clear on the matter of the basis of representation to the National Convention, but whatever plan will give the largest and best delegation, as equally distributed as possible, I am in favor of.

For one, I am glad that the comrade opened this discussion and hope that the comrades will as far as possible give their views on the matter. It is a matter entire harmony with the necessity of the hour; and the man who kicks are giving a few pennies when they are used to raise the intelligence of his class, in order to free it, is a poor kind of a Socialist, and is of no use in a movement like ours. Fraternally,

Michael T. Berry.

Lynn, Mass., May 19.

NATIONAL AGITATION FUND COMMITTEE.

The matter of the National Agitation Fund Committee has been postponed for final adjustment until Saturday evening, June 4, on which date there will be a meeting of the general committee of Section New York. Organizations that have not yet reported must make returns before that date.

Secretary.

Readers of The People
ATTENTION

How many readers of The People can be depended upon to put in some lively work between now and July 1—the day before the National Convention opens—to secure additional readers to the Weekly People?

Were it possible to arouse all, many thousands of new readers could be secured and great work could be done for the cause of working class emancipation.

But let us all try. Let us produce, in this way, a prelude to the national campaign that will indicate what is to follow afterwards.

For ten yearly subscriptions (or twenty half yearlies), we shall give as a prize:

"Woman Under Socialism," by August Bebel, translated by Daniel De Leon.

For eight yearly subs (or sixteen half yearlies), we shall give as a prize:

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PLATFORM SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY

The Socialist Labor Party of the United States, in Convention assembled, reasserts the inalienable right of all men to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With the founders of the American Republic, we hold that the purpose of government is to secure every citizen in the enjoyment of this right; but in the light of our social conditions we hold, furthermore, that no such right can be exercised under a system of economic inequality, essentially destructive of life, of liberty, and of happiness.

With the founders of this Republic, we hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be owned and controlled by the whole people; but in the light of our industrial development we hold, furthermore, that the true theory of economics is that the machinery of production must likewise belong to the people in common.

To the obvious fact that our despotic system of economics is the direct opposite of our democratic system of politics, can plainly be traced the existence of a privileged class, the corruption of government by that class, the alienation of public property, public franchises and public functions to that class, and the abject dependence of the mightiest of nations upon that class.

Again, through the perversion of democracy to the ends of plutocracy, labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage slavery, is even deprived of the necessaries of life.

Human power and natural forces are thus wasted, that the plutocracy may rule.

Ignorance and misery, with all their concomitant evils, are perpetuated that the people may be kept in bondage.

Science and invention are diverted from their humane purpose to the enslavement of women and children.

Against such a system the Socialist Labor Party once more enters its protest. Once more it reiterates its fundamental declaration that private property in the natural sources of production and in the instruments of labor is the obvious cause of all economic servitude and political dependence.

The time is fast coming, however, when in the natural course of social evolution, this system, through the destructive action of its failures and crises on the one hand, and the constructive tendencies of its trusts and other capitalist combinations on the other hand, shall have worked out its own downfall.

We, therefore, call upon the wage workers of the United States, and upon all other honest citizens, to organize under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party into a class-conscious body, aware of its rights and determined to conquer them by taking possession of the public powers; so that, held together by an indomitable spirit of solidarity under the most trying conditions of the present class struggle, we may put a summary end to that barbarous struggle by the abolition of classes, the restoration of the land and all of the means of production, transportation and distribution to the people as a collective body, and the substitution of the Co-operative Commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war and social disorder; a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

WEEKLY PEOPLE

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SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES:

In 1888	2,068
In 1892	21,157
In 1896	36,564
In 1900	34,191
In 1902	53,763

Sons of men, go hand in hand,
Brethern born in every land,
Out of every tribe and place,
Pouring on with equal pace,
Kindred blood and kindred race,
Sons of men, go hand in hand!

FOURTH EPISTLE AT THE LAMBERTIANS.

Having in previous articles knocked three wide breaches into the outworks of Father Lambert's anti-Socialism article, that appeared in the last April 16 issue of the "Freeman's Journal and Catholic Register," we shall now march through them upon his main positions. These are several. We shall first storm a neat and pretentious-looking fort, which is the key to the rest. Father Lambert says:

"The day of individual production is not past, and never will be, so long as anything is produced."

This reasoning, if an assertion can be called a reasoning, is tantamount to saying: "The day of the mastodon is not past, and never will be, so long as there are any elephants." The mastodon may be and is akin to the elephant, nevertheless, despite the general elephantine features of the mastodon, geologic conditions may and have so changed that the specific and importantly specific geologic conditions that made the mastodon possible have ceased to exist, and consequently the mastodon elephantine type is no more. Exactly so with "individual" production, notwithstanding the fact that production continues.

"Individual production" is a term of technical significance in Socialist economics. Production is said to be "individual" when, given the raw material, the individual artisan can himself produce an article of use. Time was when, given the raw material, the shoemaker could and did produce a shoe from sole to finish. That time is no more. Whatever may still be going on in some out-of-the-way corner of society, the staple of shoes no longer is produced that way. It now takes at least twenty different artisans to produce one shoe, each working upon a different part of the shoe, and only jointly producing it. What is said of the shoe holds good of all other staples, or lines of industry. Accordingly, as a matter of fact, "individual production" has ceased to be, and something else has taken its place—"collective production." This is a fact that no amount of assertion to the contrary can gainsay. The mastodon has vanished, the elephant has appeared.

It would be of no importance to expose Father Lambert's ignorance of the method of modern industry, but for the consequences of the changed method, and for the false conclusions which he arrives at from his false premises.

What is the resultant of feature of the change or evolution of production, from the "individual" to the "collective" or "co-operative" stage? The answer is given by Marx in the following summary:

"Just as the offensive power of a squadron of cavalry or the defensive power of a regiment of infantry is essentially different from the sum of the offensive or defensive powers of the individual cavalry or infantry soldiers taken separately, so the sum total of the mechanical forces exerted by isolated workingmen differs from the social force that is developed when many hands take part simultaneously in one and the same undivided operation, such as raising a heavy weight, turning a winch, or removing an obstacle. In such cases the effect of the combined labor could either not be produced at all by isolated individual labor, or it could only be produced by a great expenditure of time, or on a dwarfed scale. Not only have we here an increase in the productive power of the individual, by means of co-operation, but THE CREATION OF A NEW POWER, NAMELY, THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF THE MASSES."

In other words, "collective" or "co-operative" production produces a larger quantity of wealth than the sum of "individual" production. A pregnant fact is hereby uncovered. It is this:—The result to Labor from "collective" production under the capitalist system, where the workingman is paid only the market price of his INDIVIDUAL labor power, is that he is robbed by the capitalist of that additional wealth latent in and that flows from him the moment he is put to the COLLECTIVE work that he is hired for.

And, now, to the storm of the neat and pretentious fort that we have just been but marshalling our columns upon.

Father Lambert grants that "things may be produced by the concurrent action of men," but, he claims, each has "a right to the part that he produced," and he concludes:

"This right he, by contract, cedes to his employer for a consideration called wages."

In other words, if a pistol is put at a man's head and told to surrender his purse or his life, it is the exercise of a right on his part when he planks out his money;

If a man is placed before a pyre into which he will be hurled if he does not renounce his views, his renunciation of his views is the exercise of a right!

The workingman, placed before the pyre of capitalism and with the capitalist pistol at his head, accepts wages (pay for his INDIVIDUAL labor power) and cedes to his employer, among other things, that new power that flows from his COLLECTIVE effort—and that is called the exercise of a "right" and the entering into a "contract"!

Civilization calls the act highway robbery, and it brands the attempt of decking out a manifestation of slavery in the light of an act of freedom as fathomless immorality.

Scaled by the ladder of the obvious fact that individual production is not to-day the controlling system; forced into by the blows of the clear, though not as obvious, fact that collective labor is more fruitful than individual; battered from within by the fact that the additional fruitfulness of collective labor falls wholly into the pockets of the capitalist; dismantled by the unquestionable fact that nobody contracts to be robbed of what is his; and, finally, knocked to pieces by the fact, a corollary of the preceding ones, that the circumstance of the workingman's ceding his collective power and wealth-flow in return for his individual labor power, is an indication of his economic status being one of duress;—in short, stormed and overthrown, the key to Father Lambert's fortifications in favor of the plunder system of capitalism lies a heap of ruins.

There is a fort or two left. The demolishing of them will be the subject of subsequent epistles.

THAT REVOLUTIONARY PLATFORM.

There are those who have sincerely believed the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party, would develop upwards towards the rank of a bona fide party of the working class, in short, towards the Socialist Labor Party. The late convention of the concern—even if it had not overthrown its previous platform, which stuck as close as it could to the S. L. P., and set up a new that flies as far away from the S. L. P. as it dared—bristled with evidences enough that the development is downwards and away from Labor. The new platform should leave no doubt. It is a long, nerveless, fiberless, spineless, toothless, incoherent document that sounds like a wail rather than the virile utterance of a class that is pecking at the shell of oppression, and ready to break through. One term—one demand—in the document tells the tale to those who have ears to hear and eyes to see. It is the demand for "land values."

If a revolutionary, a Socialist platform of Labor can think it worth the while to bother with "LAND values," why not with "CAPITAL values"? For what reason only nibble at the land-lord, and not treat the capitalist with equal nibbleness? If the capital is to be appropriated from the capitalist, why not the land from the land-lord? "Socialism means," as this new platform says, "that the tools of employment" shall belong to labor, why not the land on which the tools must stand? If it be said that by taking the "land values" from the land-lord, you practically take from him the land, by what system of reasoning could it be denied that by merely taking from the capitalist the "capital values," his capital would be freed from his clutches, or, in the language of the new platform, "the tools of employment" would belong to Labor? Obviously, if the taking of "land values" will fill the bill as to land, then the taking of "capital values" should fill the bill as to capital. Obviously, by making a distinction—demanding, not the land itself, but only the "land values" from the landlord, while demanding, not the "capital values," but the capital, "the tool of employment" itself, from the capitalist—a distinction is felt. Why is it made? Why the unequal treatment? Is the landlord's possession, perchance, less of a monument of plunder than the capitalist's?—And such a platform, whose spirit of duplicity and ignorance, of cowardice and bombast, is summed up and typified by the demand for "land values," insolently advances itself as "embodying the principles of international Socialism," and holds itself out as "the only proposition for intelligently and deliberately organizing the the country"!

After the coyote's whelp is born it grows; as it gains in size, the unsophisticated may imagine that it is developing into a Kentucky stallion. What a delusion! Its development can only be coyote-ward. The more fully developed, the more pronounced is its coyote being. The coyote of the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party, can for identical reasons never reach the Socialist Labor Party stature. Its coyote being has been growing more and more pronounced. It is perfectly clear now;—it will be still clearer with the time.

DID "TEDDY'S SLATE WIN"?

In the hurly over the general elections for delegates to the Republican and Democratic conventions, the fact is overlooked that the political conflict is going on in other than primaries, and for other than ostensible political national conventions. These other conventions are so-called "national trade conventions" and the "primaries" are the respective trade locals. An illustrious illustration of this interesting phenomenon is furnished by the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

The I. B. of B. is to hold its national convention next month in St. Paul, Minn. The I. B. of B. is ostensibly a trade organization; aye, it is one of those trade organizations that has for its device "No politics in Unions!" And yet, the election for delegates to its national convention in at least one important instance, has been conducted essentially as if the delegates were to go to Chicago, that is to the Republican convention. Here is where the interest of the phenomenon centers.

It will be remembered that out of the lap of this Union, the I. B. of B., a question of grave importance arose to "Unionism"—the Miller question. It involved the question of the "open shop," starting with the Government bindery in Washington. It will be remembered that one Miller, employed in the Government bindery, was objected to by the Union; the Union threatened a strike; Roosevelt pronounced himself in favor of the "open shop," that is, against the Union's position; Gompers interviewed Roosevelt to cause him to recede; he refused; whereupon "no politics in Unions" organized labor growled many a growl, and threatened many a gory threat. Of course, the Washington local of the I. B. of B., Local No. 4, had and has the place of honor and of responsibility in this fight. The election in this local for delegates to St. Paul took place. If trades interests alone and nary a political influence affects the officers, what more natural than that a solid anti-Miller delegation should be elected? Was it? No; just the reverse. The anti-Miller candidates were beaten to a man, and among the successful candidates is one Fogarty—THE MAN WHO DEFENDED MILLER ON THE FLOOR OF THE LOCAL!

It may be vile slander; if so, vilely slanderous are the tongues in Washington that are wagging to the tune that "Teddy's slate won!"

"IDLENESS" AND "CRIME."

Here is an ash-barrel gem from the ash-barrel of the capitalist press:

"It has been shown by statistics of crime in the United States that not less than 80 per cent of the population of our prisons comprises persons who have learned no trade or handicraft. These statistics are interesting. They are significant. They show—"

Now what do these truly interesting and significant statistics show? They show two things, two closely connected things:

First, that with the improvement of machinery, skill is being rapidly eliminated from the trades. The skill once needed in the handicraft of the shoemaker, of the spinner, of the weaver, of the carpenter, etc., etc., is no longer needed. Once it required a life-time to "learn a trade"; the trade now needs hardly any learning.

Second, that the improved machinery being privately owned it displaces, not hours of work, but the workers themselves; and being operated for profit and not for use, shuts down when no profits can be made.

These two connected facts point to a theory, to wit, that unable to earn their living honestly, the avenues thereto being shut to the increasing numbers of tradeless people, they are bound to take to crime. And the theory is confirmed by the statistics. This is what the truly interesting and significant statistics show—the criminality of the capitalist system.

Now, watch what these truly interesting and significant statistics show to the block-head of the capitalist journalists:

"They show conclusively that idleness is one of the most prolific of all sources of crime"!!!

What this capitalist reasoning shows is that the stomach of the mind of the capitalist class labors under chronic indigestion. It is incapable of digesting the facts that it takes in.

◆

The Western Union, which is a Gould interest, seems to be having its own troubles of late.

The troubles began when the Goulds got an entrance into Pittsburg in spite of the efforts of the P. R. R. to keep it out of that rich tonnage territory. In retaliation the P. R. R. ousted the telegraph company from its lines. The fight was conducted by anarchistic disregard of law by both parties, and was then carried to the courts.

How far the present anti-Pool-Rooms crusade against Western Union is part of that fight is hard to determine. The Postal Telegraph, which superseded the Western Union along the lines of the P. R. R., according to rumor, is to supersede Western Union on the Erie Railroad before the year is out.

Tammany seems to have joined in the general pounding of the Western Union. It may be that the "gang" sees no further than the graft end of it. If the pool-rooms have to pay the new rates for service demanded by Western Union it makes "graft" possibilities smaller. The chances are, however, that Tammany, and through it the public powers, are being used in the interests of the heaviest battalions of finance.

The P. R. R. with its immense interests centering here and on Long Island—not the least of which is transportation to certain race tracks—may be looking for a "share" of that $5,000,000 telegraph racing business, for its ally, the Postal Telegraph.

◆

The great railroad systems of the West are continually drawing into a closer community of interests. This is brought about chiefly through the directorates of the companies. The innocent public believes that the "competing" roads are ready to cut each others throats, but the fact is that competition is practically eliminated among what would naturally be regarded as the most bitter competitors.

To illustrate: James Stillman is a director of Alton, Northwest, Burlington, Northern Pacific, Union Pacific and Southern Pacific.

George Gould is in Alton, Burlington, Missouri Pacific, Kansas City Southern, Oregon Short Line, Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and Mexican National.

E. H. Harriman in Alton, Burlington, Illinois Central, Kansas City Southern, Mexican National, Northern Pacific, Southern Pacific, Union Pacific and Erie.

This list might be much lengthened if space permitted, but enough is given to show how the predominating interest of one road is represented powerfully in other and supposelly competing systems. Such decisions as that of the Northern Securities has really no effect on these conditions.

The New York Age, organ of the colored race, doesn't appear to take much stock in the Southern claim of the need of white labor. It says:

"There have been offered all sorts of newspaper inducements to Italian immigrants of late to go to the Southern States and do the work which the Negroes have heretofore done. Many have done so, and we are told that Louisiana has a large number of them, and that they are in every way satisfactory. The effort to supplant black labor by white labor has reached an organized stage in the Southern States.

"But the experience of the Italians who made a settlement at Palermo, near Mobile, is not calculated to stimulate the movement. These settlers have fallen upon hard lines and are looking starvation in the mouth. The newspapers have not stated why this is true. But the Mayor of Mobile and the Italian Consul have been appealed to for assistance.

"The pioneer everywhere has a hard row to hoe."

From all of which it appears that there are other sections than those on the Pacific Coast, to which labor is lured by fake statements.

A trade paper reports little activity in iron. It would be interesting to hear of something in which there is activity—outside of that involved in laying off men and shutting down mills. Even politics seem to feel the general depression, and instead of being tinctured with the usual pre-presidential campaign excitement, are taking on the the aspects of an "off" year. Were it not for the Russo-Japanese war and the virtuous self-sacrifice of the Western Union Telegraph Company affairs would seem to be heading for the land of Wynken, Blynken and Nod. There is little activity in anything. The economic conditions of society are well reflected, as usual, in all its other institutions.

"The American Federation of Labor on the 24th of this month," says Secretary Frank Morrison, "will effect an amalgamation with the American Labor Union, which has been opposed to it for a number of years."

Another case of the lion and the lamb lying down together—with the lamb on the inside of the lion.

ONE FOOT ON EARTH AND ONE IN THE AIR,

This office has been furnished with a prospectus of the Medical and Surgical Sanitarium of Battle Creek, Mich. The concern is not a regulation establishment for the curing of disease. With all such regulation establishments "for the curing of disease," the vaster the volume of disease the better they like it: disease furnishes them with work, which means revenue. Is it not so with the Battle Creek Sanitarium. It does not merely seek to cure disease. Its aim is more ambitious. It proposes to eradicate disease; and the language it holds upon the subject is not cast in the mold of the visionary or the freak. As far as it utters itself its language is cast in the mold of sound sense, aye, of science, as may be judged from the following passage:

"The man whose vital tone is lowered by any means which overtaxes or exhausts the nervous system, is in a condition of lowered nerve tone, which means lowered brain tone, lowered mental tone and LOWER MORAL tone."

This is solid foundation, the materialist foundation of reasoning. With one foot the Battle Creek Sanitarium is, accordingly, soundly planted upon earth. But what of the other foot? There must be another foot. One foot we see rests solidly on the fact that the moral tone suffers if the material tone is not sound. So far so good. The next thing is how to see to the soundness of the material tone. The Battle Creek Sanitarium's answer to the question is unsatisfactory. Here is the answer, it is in the shape of a new decalogue:

First—Breathe only pure air;

[How can the majority of the people obey this commandment being compelled to work for a living in the unsanitary air of the shop, mine, mill, etc.?]

Second—Drink only pure water;

[How can the majority of the people obey this commandment being compelled either to herd in crowded cities, or, if in the country, to drink water that capitalist society is too stingy to provide for its being kept pure?]

Third—Eat only pure food;

[How can the majority of the people obey this commandment seeing that capitalism adulterates food so extensively and has such power in Congress that all bills against the adulteration of food are howled down as an encroachment upon "Americanism" and "Individualism"?]

Fourth—Take sufficient muscular exercise;

[How can this commandment be obeyed seeing that the majority of the people either have to take excessive muscular exercise for a living, or are wholly without exercise as "superfluous labor"?]

Fifth—Preserve proper attitudes;

[How can this commandment be obeyed seeing that capitalism compels the worker to assume improper attitudes during inhumanly long hours for a living, or starve under the stigma of "laziness"?]

Sixth—Discipline the mind by proper mental exercise;

[How can this commandment be obeyed seeing that want and the fear of want, coupled to inhumanly long and intense hours of work deprive the majority of the people of the means and the opportunity for mental culture?]

Seventh—Take proper rest and recreation, and sufficient sleep;

[The same question as under numbers 4, 5 and 6.]

Eighth—Restrain the passions and emotions;

[To obey this commandment an effort of strong moral tone is requisite; the Sanitarium correctly says the moral tone is lowered when the material tone is overtaxed and run down; the previous answers prove that the material tone is necessarily low under existing conditions. How, then, can the necessary moral tone be there to obey this commandment?]

Ninth—Give attention to personal cleanliness;

[How can this commandment be obeyed seeing that the working class is huddled into quarters so reduced that cleanliness is out of question?]

Tenth—Be temperate in all things;

[How can this commandment be obeyed when the majority of the people are driven by capitalism to the alternative of intemperance in work or starvation?]

The Battle Creek Sanitarium answers not these questions. Obviously, the other foot of the concern is in the air. Thus the one half of the concern belies the other and renders it ridiculous. To the extent that disease is eradicable the above Ten Commandments must be obeyed; in order to be obeyed the conditions must be removed that to-day reverse that decalogue and render it impracticable, visionary and freakish; finally, in order to render that decalogue practicable, the capitalist system of plunder, the wage slavery system of production, must be pulled up root and branch, pulled up as the most deadly custom, practice or weed.

There is but one Sanitarium that stands with both its feet on earth. It is the militant Socialist Movement—in America the Socialist Labor Party. All others have, if not both, then at least one foot in the air.

◆

The latest report of the Interstate Commerce Commission shows that the number of passengers killed during the last quarter of 1903 was more than three times the average killed during the nine preceding quarters. The report states that 147 passengers were killed and 1,148 injured in collisions and derailments, while 28 were killed and 789 injured in various other accidents. This list is appalling enough, but to it must be added figures more appalling still—the casualties of employees. Of the trainmen and other employees, 991 were killed and 11,382 injured. The commission urges the passage of a law requiring the adoption of the block-signal system on all railroads within a prescribed period of NINE years!

The capitalist press, in discussing these figures, is at a loss to attribute these disasters to any special cause. The demand of the public for greater speed is given as partially accountable for the increase of accidents. Now it is a well known fact among railroad men that the safety devices of to-day should practically eliminate the majority of railroad accidents; but even on the great trunk lines which have the block system and improved conveyances, the ratio of accidents has increased.

In marked contrast are the railroad accident figures furnished by the British Board of Trade which show but 25 passengers killed during the whole year of 1903, and this was an exceptionally bad year, for in 1901 no passenger was killed in a collision or derailment on the railways of Great Britain, and in 1902 only six were killed from such causes. The British traffic is many times more dense than in this country, and the inference would be that liability to accidents should be greater.

In this country, even upon the block-system railroads, there is a tendency to rely more upon the train-despatching system with the consequent misunderstanding of train orders, and the failure of overworked men to comply with them. Where the safety devices are adopted it is not for the purpose of safety, but because their adoption displaces labor. The absolute block system, if followed, should reduce collisions to a minimum; when ignored and trains are run on the despatch system, it must fail, because then more flagmen and trainmen are needed to operate the road and these having been displaced by the block system horrible collisions are the result. The wholesale adoption of train-brakes, automatic couplers, block signal systems and many other appliances are resulting in an increase of railroad accidents because hand in hand with their adoption there goes the wholesale discharge of labor.

Parry's statement that the purpose of his organization is not a war on labor, but a defense of principles, will deceive no one aware of the fact that the defense of capitalist principles is only possible by attacking labor. There is no sense in crying "Peace, peace" where there can be no peace.

The circumstances attending Hearst's California victory does not argue favorably for his anti-bolt statements. He is fighting too desperately to permit another to secure his support as the presidential nominee.

Uncle Sam and Brother Jonathan!

BROTHER JONATHAN—I wonder why it is the Socialists must season so benign a principle as their with the sauce of class hatred.

UNCLE SAM—Do they?

B. J.—Why, certainly they do. Don't you know that they preach class hatred?

U. S.—No; I don't, and what's more I know they don't. We are organized in our union, aren't we?

B. J.—Yes.

U. S.—Why do we do so?

B. J.—Because, if we didn't the employer would skin us worse than he does now.

U. S.—So, then, you admit that there is a class conflict between us workingmen and the employer.

B. J.—Yes.

U. S.—And is the fact that we recognize the fact a seasoning of our organization with the sauce of hatred?

B. J.—No; but—

U. S.—No "buts." The Socialists do not season their benign principles with the sauce of hatred, but only with the sauce of common sence.

B. J.—Will you deny that the Socialists are always saying that they aim at the conquest of power by the working class?

U. S.—No; I won't deny that; on the contrary, I admit it and approve of it.

B. J.—Very well, and what, pray, do you call that if not seasoning a good principle with hatred, class hatred. How can one class win without another losing?

U. S.—It simply can't be done; right you are in that.

B. J.—Now, how can you deny that that sort of thing is a seasoning of hatred. Classes are bad things; where they exist rows, conflict, hatred must be. What would be the use of wiping out one class to set up another?

U. S.—Now you begin to talk sense.

B. J.—There, then, you agree, don't you, that this setting up one class and setting down of another keeps up class rows and hatred?

U. S.—I fully agree that to set up one class and set down another, and keeping up class distinctions don't set us further on the road towards a humane existence.

B. J.—Well, I'm glad to hear you say so. That's all I meant.

U. S.—No; that's not all you meant.

B. J.—What else could I mean?

U. S.—What you said was that the Socialist aim of bringing the working class into power was a seasoning of hatred because class conflicts are bound to continue if the thing is merely the bouncing of one class and the enthroning of another.

B. J.—That's just what I said.

U. S.—And, if that means anything, it means that the victory of the working class would be similar to the victories of all other classes: a change of oppressors.

B. J.—That's it!

U. S.—And that is wrong.

B. J.—How so?

U. S.—If you drop a lighted parlor match into a box of gunpowder, it will explode, eh?

B. J.—Yes.

U. S.—And if you drop a lighted common sulphur match into that box—

B. J.—It will explode likewise.

U. S.—Does it follow from that that, whatever you drop into that box, an explosion will follow?

B. J. ponders.

U. S.—If you drop a tumblerful of water into it—

B. J.—No, no explosion will then follow.

U. S.—And the gunpowder's explosive powers—

B. J.—Will be at an end thereafter.

U. S.—Just so in this gunpowder social system that our race has been living in. The successive victories of the several classes were so many lighted matches of different composition dropped into it; "explosions" had to follow; that is, class distinctions, with all the conflicts and hatreds thereby implied had to continue. Why? Because the program that each of these previous classes brought along with it, and had to bring along with it obedient to the law of its own existence, was a class war program, it was so because they were all based upon a principle that necessitates class war; that principle was the PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF THE THINGS NEEDED TO EARN A LIVING BY. With the working class it is otherwise; the program that it is bound to bring along with it is the PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF THE THINGS NEEDED TO EARN A LIVING BY. Thus the victory of the working class necessarily means the abolition of class distinctions, the wiping out of class wars, the doing away with class hatreds, the laying of the only foundation possible for "Peace on earth, good will among men." Catch on?

B. J.—Somewhat.

U. S.—Thus the Socialist's principles alone are the principles that are not seasoned with hatred, but are seasoned with love; all other political and economic movements, on the contrary, whatever their name, whatever their pretences, are the ones that are seasoned in hatred: each and all of them cling to the PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF THE THINGS NEEDED TO EARN A LIVING BY, consequently, all start from, are built upon, the source of all class hatred. Think this over.

CORRESPONDENCE

[CORRESPONDENTS WHO PREFER TO APPEAR IN PRINT UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME WILL ATTACH SUCH NAME TO THEIR COMMUNICATIONS, BESIDE THEIR OWN SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS. NONE OTHER WILL BE RECOGNIZED.]

THE WAGES OF MINERS.

To the Daily and Weekly People.—This is in answer to the inquiry on the wages of miners. According to the coal statistics of the State of Illinois, the average yearly wages of miners was in 1903 $450.00. Deducting Sundays and thirteen holidays this is just $1.50 per day.

The following is the annual pay, according to months, of a miner in Southern Illinois, the garden spot of the coal fields of Illinois and the United States. It begins April 1, 1903, and ends March 31, 1904, inclusive: April, $58.57; May, $43.10; June, $60.00; July, $60.00; August, $62.91; September, $85.02; October, $96.25; November, $83.90; December, $83.60; January, $78.75; February, $68.06; March, $89.41. Total, $863.57, or an average of $16 a week.

This annual pay is among the leaders. Few miners beat this, running perhaps over $1,000, but the big majority go below, as the state average of $9.00 a week shows. A Miner.

Collinsville, Ill., May 17.

WE STRETCH A POINT AND PERMIT INSERTION HERE.

To The Daily and Weekly People: The National Agitation Fund Committee begs leave to announce in this column, as some comrades evidently do not read announcements under "Official Notices," that final adjustment of the N. A. F. work will be made on Saturday evening June 4, as previously announced; postponement having been made necessary by the incompleteness of the returns on May 1. All returns must be in before June 4. The matter having been postponed a month, no further excuse for delay will be accepted.

John Hossack, secretary.

New York, May 18.

STRIKE AGAINST PLUMBERS' ALLIANCE.

To the Daily and Weekly People.—Enclosed find circular gotten out this morning to head off labor fakirs, who are trying to scab against our Plumbers' Alliance, 406, S. T. & L. A. Will do my uttermost to send in article on the matter to The People. S. B.

Seattle, Wash., May 13.

[Enclosure.]

WORKINGMEN! NOTICE!

Do Not be Fooled!

This strike is for more DUES, Wages and Hours have nothing to do with it.

An attempt has been made to strike the Colman Building; the strike declarers would have you believe THAT THE PLUMBERS are NOT UNION MEN, and are working injuriously towards ORGANIZED LABOR.

Allow us—the new Plumbers' Union, organized Sept. 24, 1903—to explain our position.

Last Labor Day a few men, controlling the old union, purchased SCAB uniforms from New York, and as there were men who refused to patronize SCAB INDUSTRY by wearing such a GARB, we were, by the leader, declared unfair, and organized the NEW UNION RECEIVING UNION WAGES AND HOURS, WORKING IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ORGANIZED LABOR.

Do not be deceived by LEADERS and STRIKE on UNION MEN, who refuse to wear a SCAB UNIFORM or pay DUES TO LABOR FAKIRS.

Press Committee:
S. Brearcliff,
A. Anderson.
Geo. Swiney.

GETTING WHAT THEY VOTED FOR.

To The Daily and Weekly People: The P. R. R. shops, situated at Altoona, Pa., have suspended 30 per cent. of their working force, which amounts to something like 5,000 men. The remaining body of men is put on half time, 8 hours and four days a week.

This will no doubt produce some Socialists of butterfly variety who, of course, will vanish as soon as capitalism comes up smiling again, extending the hands to Brother Labor saying: "Forget your misery. We are still on good terms, ready to do some more skinning."

The above lay off and reduction of time happened on the 17th of May, 2 weeks previous we got a 10 per cent. wage reduction, some as high as 20 per cent.

Kipple, Pa., May 17. C. L.

"DIRECTING," A LA GOULD.

To The Daily and Weekly People: The following appeared in the Holyoke Daily Transcript:

"Edwin Gould Here.

"Edwin Gould, of the famous sons of the late Jay Gould, accompanied by William H. Taylor of New York, were in the city for a brief visit to-day. They came up from Springfield where they remained last night on business with the American Writing Paper company in which they are heavily interested. Mr. Gould is a director. At the office of the company no information regarding their visit was given."

An amusing and instructive incident is connected with the above mentioned visit which, of course, it would not suit a capitalist paper to publish.

The superintendent of the Linden Mill who can bow and scrape to the powers that be, as well as anybody, gave it out that Mr. Gould would pay his mill a personal visit and requested that everything look neat and clean. So there was a sweeping and a picking up to beat the band. The girls put on their collars and cuffs and ribbons, to look real pretty when his lordship should arrive.

Punctually at 11 a. m. three carriages drove up to the mill doors and all was expectancy. The great "captains of industry" got out, walked into the office, and after resting a few minutes walked out again and off they were to visit some other profit squeezing mill. The superintendent and the mill-hands had been made a laughing stock. But they were given a lesson in how the "directors," a la Gould, direct, that will do them good and enable them to make a laughing stock of the capitalists some day, if they take it to heart.

Holyoke, Mass., May 18. M. R.

WAGES, MARRIAGE AND CHURCH.

To The Daily and Weekly People: Just a few words in regard to the discussions headed "Wages, Marriage and the Church:" I do not approve of attacking theology directly, although we recognize it as an enemy. It is not a matter of whether it is right or wrong to attack theology, but a matter of TACT. If the workers will admit the materialist conception of history, as they must, theology will crumble of itself. By attacking theology first we arouse prejudice against our teachings and further arguments will be of no avail. It is TACT which counts most in the preaching of Socialism. Not only must we teach our fellow-workers the truth but we must know how best to teach it effectively.

As to Bebel's "Woman," I can see nothing wrong with the book. Had Bebel called his work the "Materialist Conception of History" the title would have been equally appropriate.

Yours Fraternally
Gus A. Maves.

Toronto, Ont., May 17.

STOCHOLDERS WIPED OUT.

To The Daily and Weekly People: This week the common stock of the U. S. Steel corporation sold at 9, which makes it worth $45,747,225, compared with its par value of $508,302,500, and with $279,-566,3175 its actual selling value on the local stock exchange.

Excluding the par value and figuring only from its highest market value of $55 per share, the stock has depreciated $234,819,150 from its high point.

The highest the common stock ever touched was 55 in the early part of 1901, the low point that year being 24, reached on May 9, the day of the Northern Pacific "corner." The high in 1902 was 46⅞ and the low 29¾. The top in 1902 was 46⅞ and the low 29¾. Last year the high was 39⅞ and the low 10, while this year the high has been 12⅞ and the low 8 3-5.

At 9 the common stock is 46 points below its highest figure and 15 points below the price during the Northern Pacific panic in 1901. Yet it possesses voting power and through it control of the Billion Dollar Corporation can be maintained.

One of the 37,000 stock-holders of the big corporation said the other day in speaking with a newspaper man:

"It seems to me that it will require the cash of this year and all of next year for the Steel Corporation to drift with the depressed trade and safely round the turn into prosperity. It will then take at least one year for the corporation to recover from its losses of 1903 and this year, and another year under prosperous conditions to properly build up its surplus. This means that it will be 1908 at least, and probably longer before we who own common stock can expect any return on it."

To the Socialist this plain talk from a middle class steel stockholder means much, as it goes to show that in a trifle over three years the giant capitalist John Pierpont Morgan has practically wiped out close to 80,000 members of that class, if we take into account both common and preferred stockholders.

More power to him says, W.

New York, May 18.

THE PAY OF PARRY'S EMPLOYEES.

To the Daily and Weekly People.—At this time the members of the working class should not fail to note the events that are transpiring in different sections of the country. If they do they cannot fail to observe many indications of the lower standard of existence which is being imposed on the working class by the capitalist class, a condition that will continue until the working class learns to use its most powerful weapon, the ballot, as advocated by the S. L. P.

I herewith enclose a clipping from the Lynn News of May 14, which I think will explain President D. M. Parry's attitude toward labor and also call attention to one of the events above referred to.

A. B. C.

Lynn, Mass, May 16.

(Enclosure)

"$3 A WEEK TO FEED 13.

"Parry Employee Tells Why He Deserted Family at Indianapolis.

Indianapolis, Ind., May 14.—'I did the best I could, your honor,' said Charles Wright to Judge Whallon when charged with deserting his wife and children. There are eleven children, nine of them minors, and all living at home.

"The man, guant and careworn, stretched out his long arms and looked appealingly to the judge as he told his story.

"'I did the best I could,' he continued, 'I work for the Parry Manufacturing Company. I work hard and do all I can get to do, but I don't make much.

"'Sometimes I draw $6 or $7 on pay day, and after I pay my helper I have $5 or $6 left. But times are better now and I have more work than I had last winter. Then I often had but $3 left after the helper was paid, and there have been pay days when there was only $1.50 in my envelope. I do piece work and sometimes there is little to be had.'

"Wright and his wife quarreled and he left home. She said he spent his earnings at saloons, but he denied it.

"'There isn't much left to spend for drink after feeding and clothing thirteen persons on such wages,' he said. 'Last winter I walked all the way from our home in Haughville to the factory. I walked back every day, too. It was cold and I was tired, but I couldn't afford to spend money for car fare.'

"He said some of his sons were able to work, but did not. Judge Whallon told him the little children needed his care and he must go back. A fine of $100 was suspended."

"BATTERY DAN" FOUND UNEMPLOYED TOO NUMEROUS FOR HIM.

To the Daily and Weekly People.—"Battery Dan" Finn, Tammany leader of the First Assembly District, in a speech delivered last week said: "Boys, I am tired trying to get jobs for you all. My advice is for you to get on the Civil Service list, that is, get number 3 or 4 from the top, and then I can help you out—otherwise it is foolish of you to bother me seeking positions. I find my hands tied and the advice given you to-night is the only way out."

Judge Finn deserves the thanks of the class-conscious worker for the very candid way in which he tells the Tammany voter what he is up against at the present time. H. S. Low.

New York, May 14.

IN "THE CITY OF HOMES" AND DELAWARE.

To the Daily and Weekly People.—In the Philadelphia "North American," John Wanamaker's strictly capitalist sheet, there appears in the issue of the 11th inst. the statement that in the city of "Brotherly Love" there are 66,000 weavers out of work.

Last year they struck for fewer hours, same rate of pay, and lost. The result was a tough one, many families were unable to meet the landlord's demands, which means in Philadelphia that you lose your furniture as well as your home; no putting your goods on the sidewalk, which we all know is bad enough, but they put the poor tenant on the sidewalk and sell the furniture over his head. Sixty-six thousand weavers out of work (we don't dare dwell on the many thousands in other trades) means that fully ten housand will lose all they ever had.

Philadelphia is an "own your own home" city. A speculator will put up two or three hundred frail, miserably built shacks, costing, with the lot, about $1,200 apiece. The poor man buys them for $2,400 a piece, paying anywhere from $250 to $500 down, the balance as "rent." At the first failure to meet the note falling due out goes the "owner," his furniture is seized—and the country is prosperous, and "there are two jobs to every man."

Down here in Delaware they are strictly middle class farmers and merchants. If you can't get $1 a day (big pay), work for 50 cents. I've been arguing socialism indirectly. They'd mob me were I to come out flat. I've made one believe that the farmer was a day laborer and nothing more. I am going to send the Weekly into five homes here when I return to dear, old Gotham, the foremost city in the country, the only true centre from which to reach the masses and teach the word of Marx and Engel. I don't dare start the wedge until my return.

The political condition of the people is lower than low. The negro is a "republican" at election time. A condition of affairs exist that in any other part of the civilized world would send the perpetrators of the crimes that have thrown the voters here into the present state of corruption into prison of long terms.

The "voter's assistant law" legalizes the putting of two men in the ballot box under the Australian ballot system. It's like this: John Brown has been bought for 25 dollars. How are we to see that the goods are delivered? The Governor appoints an assistant from each party. I am a "Union" republican captain. I tell John Brown to ask for Hank Smith when he enters the polling place. Hank enters the booth with my chattel slave, marks his ballot in the Union column and hands the voter (?) a button. The button is worth $25.

The fun comes in when the voter (?) gets the wrong button, for if he doesn't know "Hank" why they'll work a "ringer" on him and out he comes with a Democratic button. But the "Demos" will come down with five so it doesn't matter so very much.

While they are in this terrible state of ignorance Socialism cannot be taught. They must be educated, tho' our Salt Lake City friend objects to high class literature and translations in the Weekly, which are the best means of reaching the hearts and minds of our students.

The "best" families down here tell you of their family tree, and to hear them tell it they are a superior race, tho' I can't see it. Maybe its 'cause I am nearsighted, but one instance will suffice. There was a very close election in a certain village. It was so close that $40 was paid for one vote. A school-teacher in the village had two days before election refused to play ball with the team because a negro was on the same, but I saw this same "Southern gentleman" (?) with his arm around a "nigger's" shoulder (and a bad "nigger" at that) plying him with drink, and playing "good fellow" all around. But let us get New York and the rest will follow. Yours fraternally, E. C.

Willow Grove, Del., May 12.

NORTHERN CAPITAL IN DELAWARE

To The Daily and Weekly People: We expect to have good results from Deleware within the next decade. With the incoming of Northern capital and labor, a change in the laws and customs of the old families is inevitable. We have the "blood" proposition to deal with, and though the belief is well grouded that just so long as your grand father was an old settler, you are a superior being, yet we find the daughters of the old families "intermarrying" with Northern men whose grand daddies are unknown quantities.

The poverty of the middle class is pitiable. In nine families out of ten the wife works either at seamstress work or tailoring, and during the seasons picking and packing berries and peaches.

The farmhand is becoming poor. In fact very few good farms can be bought. The land agent do well, but most of them are cheats. At Dover, the capital, an ex-convict has the largest business in the State, buying and selling farms. All readers of The People are warned against the sharks. The writer has in mind a case where a farm worth about $1,000 was sold for $5,000.

Saturday two men were given fifteen lashes across their bare backs for the larceny of a $2 revolver from a drunken farmer. The whippings are public exhibitions of this State's inability to deal with the question. The pillory is another form of punishment, a prisoner being condemned to stand one hour in the pillory, fifteen lashes, and any length of time from a day to 20 years in jail.

I am securing subscribers from an honored member of the 23rd A. D. New York, which are to be filled out with the names of men throughout this county. I return to New York to-morrow to help in my small way to open the eyes of my fellow slaves to the teachings of Marx and Engels, so that the vote may be rolled up to the 200,000 mark at November's election.

Yours for Victory,
E. C.

Camden, Del., May 16.

MANY CONCERNS, FEW OWNERS.

To the Daily and Weekly People.—In the column "News from the Field of Capital," under the caption "Four Concerns, Same Incorporators," in the Daily People of Wednesday, May 11, there appeared a paragraph, which I think we ought to pay particular attention to. I know of at least four concerns in this city that are proceeding on somewhat similar lines—they own and control stores and factories under assumed names.

It seems to me that this is a new move on the part of the capitalists to divert attention from the Marxian theory on the concentration of wealth. If the members of the Socialist Labor Party will watch this game of the capitalists, they will find that this will be practiced by them more and more as we go along. It would also be well for those who proclaim the theory of the diffusion of wealth to look into this. I am glad to see the editors of our party organ noticing these things.

I enclose clipping to be republished so that those who overlooked it may have a chance to read it. A. O.

New York, May 15.

(Enclosure.)

FOUR CONCERNS; SAME INCORPORATORS.

Newark, N. J., May 10.—Four concerns, organized to deal in grain and hay, filed articles of incorporation in the county clerk's office yesterday. In each instance the incorporators are Walter H. Sloane, Albert J. Morgan, Robert Clyde, Charles J. Neale and Edward Elsworth, and the principal office in this State is given as at 525 Main street, East Orange, the headquarters of the New Jersey Registration and Trust Company.

The names of the four corporations are the Cadillac Grain Company, the Euclid Flour and Grain Company, the Fort Orange Grain Company and the Chesapeake Grain Company. The first two have an authorized capital of $25,000 each, and the other two of $50,000 each. The amount paid in by the incorporators for each concern is $1,000.

GRUENINGER VS. KRAFFT.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—Some time since, I furnished our comrades an account of how the Kangaroo candidate for the office of Mayor of Jersey City, N. J., had been withdrawn because of a trifling charge, viz. swindling a "genosse."

I am now in possession of further information on the subject—of course, I don't want any of our comrades to speak of it, excepting in a low whisper, for if the kangs should hear of it, I, too, might be placed on trial before the Solons who tried the case which is destined to be a precedent for all time to come, and probably for some time after, the case of "Grueninger vs. Krafft."

Like the "Eichmann" case in which, after The People had pounded the kangs nearly six months before any action was taken—and then gave two sentences, one in secret, suspending the delinquent for the term of his official life, viz: three years—and the other public, for the benefit of the "verdamnite de Leoniten" expelling him—so in the above case. After the matter had leaked out, after its publication in The People, and after a challenge by its editor at a public meeting held opposite the kangaroo headquarters in Jersey City, the case was brought before the aforesaid Solons for trial.

I am not informed as to how many adjournments were had by both sides before the gun went off, nor how much foaming knowledge was imbibed by the learned judges, nor do I know whether their final decision was copyrighted or patented, but I would like to post capitalist judges and jurors to closely inform themselves about it before attempting to use it in their own business. If you could possibly print it in a corner where nobody would be likely to see it, do so, for I would not like to be the victim of a suit for aiding and abetting an infringement of a copyright or a patent—so here goes:

"Report of Grievance Committee. To the Marsupial County Committee—

"Fellow Kangs and Kanglets:—Your committee appointed to investigate the charges brought by Kang Grueninger against the very and right Rev. Kang Krafft, charging the said Krafft with bamboozling him out of some pictures of our God marked with Vs, Xs and XXs, to wit, some forty dollars, good and lawful money of the United States, do, after due and weighty deliberation and frequent libation, find the said defendant the very right Reverend Kang Krafft, 'well known in Hoboken, Jersey City, Timbuctoo and Kalamazoo,' to be 'morally guilty' and we therefore 'censure' our Kang Grueninger for maliciously informing some of the De Leonites; and we regret that the name of our very worthy friend and Comrade Krafft was ever taken from the ticket."

It is needless to say that the decision was received with great applause and the club nearly covered its expenses by the sale of extra libations that evening.

George P. Herrschaft.

Jersey City, N. J., May 13.

OHIO STATE CONVENTION.

Comrades:—The Socialist Labor Party of Ohio will hold its State Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 30 (Decoration Day), at Section Cleveland's Hall, 356 Ontario street, top floor, (German American Bank Building). Convention will be called to order at 9.30 a. m. sharp.

It is to be hoped and expected that the party membership of the State will be largely represented. Members at large and adherents and sympathizers of the S. L. P. are cordially invited to attend and to avail themselves of the excursion rates prevailing on all railroad lines on Decoration Day.

Visitors from the State who are not acquainted in Cleveland will be gladly met at the depot by a committee if they notify the undersigned of the time and depot of their arrival. Committee will be recognizable by the party button and small red badge.

Any further information wanted, you can receive by addressing

Richard Koeppel,
193 Champlain Street,
Cleveland, Ohio.

OHIO SECTIONS AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE.

Owing to lack of funds, your S. E. C. is obliged to call for contributions to defray the expense of sending our delegates to the national convention.

James Rugg, Secretary.
1925 Osage St., Cleveland, O.

FOR GENERAL ORGANIZER.

To all District and Local Alliances, Members at Large and Sympathizers of the Socialist Trades and Labor Alliance, Greeting:—

You are urgently called upon to contribute toward the establishment of a fund for the purpose of enabling the S. T. and L. A. to place a General Organizer in the field at the earliest possible date. Every effort looking to that end should be made.

Address all contributions to John J. Kinneally, Gen. Sec., S. T. and L. A., 2-6 New Reade Street, New York.

LETTER-BOX

OFF-HAND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

[NO QUESTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED THAT COME IN ANONYMOUS LETTERS. ALL LETTERS MUST CARRY A BONA FIDE SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS.]

H. A. N., CHICAGO, ILL.—The fact is confirmed that Gaylord, the S. P. State organizer for Wisconsin and delegate to his party's late so-called national convention, has stated that "Socialism is not the issue this year." Draw your own conclusions.

D. R., JERSEY CITY, N. J.—The address "The Burning Question of Trades Unionism" is to go into one single issue of THE PEOPLE. Requests have come for its publication in that way. Impossible to suit everybody's wishes.

W. H., NEW YORK.—Wonder not at the "grotesque single taxism" of the platform of the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party. It dares not tell the farmer that it wants his land. Hence its talk of "land values." It is a case of fly-paper run riot.

E. J. W., NEW YORK.—Can you not have patience? The capitalist's line of battle does not consist wholly of the freaks and frauds who run the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party. The S. L. P. shot must rake the whole line. One shot a week at the bogus Socialists is quite enough. Their late convention will be riddled with one shot a week, point after point. Have patience.

J. A. M., TORONTO, ONT.—The announcement has been expressly made that the Eugene Sue stories are to be discontinued in the Weekly because the approaching campaign will require the space for campaign matter; and it was stated they will continue in the Daily, SUNDAYS EXCEPTED. One of these stories is now running in the Daily, "The Infant's Skull; or, the End of the World." It was commenced on Monday, the 13th.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—Attention is hereby called to the fact that the letters in the discussion on "Wages, Marriage and the Church" are wandering more and more from the question. The contributors are beginning to discuss one another. For instance, the central question is not whether THE PEOPLE should discuss theology or not. That question is legitimate in the discussion but only secondarily so. The first question on that head is whether the "hits-back" by THE PEOPLE were theologic or not. Of what importance is it to decide whether THE PEOPLE should discuss theology or not, before we are all clear upon the field that theology covers?

R. V., NEW HAVEN, CT.—Get ready for a wholesale sell-out by the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic leaders. They know their movement will collapse this year.

J. F. K., BOSTON, MASS.—See above to J. A. M. Toronto. What the manager of THE PEOPLE may decide regarding the Eugene Sue translations after the campaign, we cannot now tell. During the campaign the Weekly's space will be needed for other matter.

"INQUIRER," CHICAGO, ILL.—Barney Berlyn just lives for his coffin. That is the ideal to which he trims his sails. When he dies he will be entitled to $55 from his cigarmakers union, as his coffin and funeral expenses. To make that ideal safe all his political convictions bend. It is an illustration of how the union, unless dominated by Socialism, will dominate the "Socialist."

P. K., BERLIN, GERMANY.—First, Be there, by all means. Second, The information was given by two men who were in Paris.

W. G. T., LOUISVILLE, KY.—That is not the way to judge Word H. Mills. The man believes with his party in boring from within. Probably it is the only thing in his party that he believes in. And he practices his belief. He is boring from within his party. Let him find out.

E. C. D., ST. LOUIS, MO.—In national campaign times engagements for speaking should be made with the N. E. C.

E. L. M., GIRARD, KANS.—You have been answered in the Letter Box.

R. P. R., SEATTLE, WASH.; P. F., MILWAUKEE, WIS.; A. W., NEW YORK; H. S., VIGUS, MO.; T. F. L., DENVER, COLO.; W. R., ALBANY, N. Y.; S. K., NEW YORK; S. O. C., COLUMBUS, O.; B. G., TRENTON, N. J.; F. J. K., SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.; T. A. C., BROCKTON, MASS; S. N., SANTA CRUZ, CAL.; R. T. S., PITTSBURG, PA.; W. B., ST. LOUIS—Matter received.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT NOTES

The total number of subscriptions to the Weekly People for the week ending May 20, was 194. This is a decrease in the figure of the preceding week. This total no doubt, reflects the "hard times." What with lay offs and reduced time on all sides, the members of the working class are chary about subscribing to any papers. Nevertheless, the "hard times" should not prove a drawback to us, in fact, they should be used to show the working class the necessity of finding out the cause of their troubles and reading our press, with this view in end. A quarter thus spent will save them millions in the future, not to speak of the suffering that will also be avoided.

The "hard times" do not offer any obstacles to the comrades of Belleville, Ill. They send for the subscription list, and state they are going to pass the 100 mark in their town. They are holding weekly outdoor meetings and otherwise pushing the party press and agitation. Section Cleveland has organized a canvassers' club on a new plan, the details of which they will forward as soon as proven successful. Finally, the New York S. E. C. has engaged Comrade J. T. B. Geariety, to canvass the larger industrial towns in the vicinity of Rochester. This is the true spirit. Get to work! Go out and hustle! Use the "hard times" as they should be used, viz, for our party press and against capitalism!

The following workers sent more than five subscriptions: T. N. Jackson, Buffalo, N. Y., 8; G. S. Jenning, E. St. Louis, 10; 34th A. D. N. Y., 11; J. T. B. Geariety, Rochester, N. Y., 11; Frank Fulton, Lawrence, Mass., 11; Section St. Louis, 13. These workers show what can be done despite the "hard times" or, possibly, because of them.

The following amount of prepaid cards were sold: Section Cleveland, $4.00; 34th A. D., $1.25; John W. Newman, St. Louis, Mo., $8.00; Section Troy, $4.00; 23rd A. D. N. Y., $9.00.

The Daily People is publishing serially, excepting Sundays, De Leon's translations of Eugene Sue's stories, "The Mysteries of The People, or The History of A Proletarian Family." The readers of The Weekly People, who derived instruction and delight from "The Pilgrim's Shell," would do well to subscribe to The Daily People in order to secure the stories now appearing. They are of the same high standard and value as "The Pilgrim's Shell."

LABOR NEWS NOTES.

"The Pilgrim's Shell or Fergan The Quarryman," De Leon's translation of Eugene Sue's powerful sociological novel, was received from the binder last week and delivered to subscribers. The book is without doubt the most beautiful publication issued by the Socialist press of this country. The binding, quality of paper, typography, and the general ensemble, are very good. The appearance of the whole book is striking. The price, 75 cents a copy, is small for the book.

With The Pilgrim's Shell the Labor News Co. now has two books of recent publication to dispose of, the other being Bebel's "Woman Under Socialism." Members and friends are urged to aid in creating a demand for these two works by applying for them at newsdealers and libraries. Give the full titles of the books, together with the names of the authors, translators and publishers. Persistent effort along this line, will bring the books before the reading public.

Adam Marx, of New London, Conn., acknowledges receipt of 24 Bebel's "Woman Under Socialism" on May 19, and says: "I have sold several already." The book is an easy seller at $1.00 a copy and any comrade canvassing for it, will find it so. Apply to N. Y. Labor News Co. for terms to canvassers.

The plates for Franz Von Sickingen are now ready. 500 advance orders of 50 cents each must be on hand before publication will be begun. Send them in at once.

Attention is called to the party leaflets on "The Unemployed." "The Industrial Crisis," "Some Things A Workingman Should Know," "Arbitration," "The Social Effects of Machinery," "Old and New Trades Unionism," etc. In these times of idleness, strikes and curtailment, they will be found to the point. 15 cents a hundred assorted. $1.25 a thousand. Push them along, now's the time to do it.

D. A. 49.

Regular meeting of D. A. 49 was held in Daily People Building, 2-6 New Reade street, on Thursday evening, May 2, 1904.

Comrade Orme, of L. A. 42, was elected chairman.

Comrade McCormick, of L. A. 274, was elected temporary secretary.

Minutes of previous meeting approved as read.

The secretary was instructed to write to Comrade Hanlon in reference to books of L. A. 1563.

All of the local alliances reported holding fairly good meetings, and now that the fine weather was coming they expected to hold out-door meetings for agitation purposes.

General Secretary John J. Kinneally volunteered to go and see Secretary Baer of D. A. 49 and secure minutes book.

It was recommended to lay over until next meeting the document prepared by Comrade French.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 10.55 p. m.

E. J. McCormick, Secretary p. t.

OFFICIAL

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Henry Kuhn, Secretary, 2-6 New Reade street, New York.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY OF CANADA—National Secretary, P. O. Box 380, London, Ont.

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS COMPANY. 2-6 New Reade street, New York City (The Party's literary agency.)

Notice—For technical reasons no party announcements can go in that are not in this office by Tuesdays, 10 p. m.

NEW YORK STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Regular meeting was held at Daily People Building, May 14, Kihn in the chair, and all present, except Santee. Minutes adopted as read.

Communications: From J. J. Corcoran, Lynn, Mass., returning N. A. F. matter. From Section Albany reporting suspension for 6 months, and fine of $15, of J. J. Corcoran, for misuse of funds, and requesting replacement of 27 due stamps. Letter filed, and secretary instructed to replace stamps and communicate contents of Corcoran's letter to Section Albany. From Sections Syracuse, Schenectady, Richmond, Rochester, Buffalo, Troy, New York, Westchester, and Scandinavian sending votes on state delegates to National Convention. Referred, with votes received at previous meeting, to Comrade Emil Wegener who was appointed a committee on tabulation. From Section Rochester, two resolutions for National Convention. Referred to N. E. C. From Organizer Reinstein requesting voting blanks. Filed. From Comrade Geariety, of Rochester, inclosing addresses and pointing out the possibilities of organizing a section at Batavia, doing agitation at Medina, Geneva and Brookport, and offering his services for same. Secretary reported having engaged Geariety to go to Batavia for one week, on the understanding that upon the results of his labors there would agitation in the other places depend. Action endorsed, letter filed. From Ernest Leske, Rockland Lake, N. Y., making application for member-at-qlarge. Referred to Section Essex County, N. J., of which the applicant is an expelled member.

Comrade C. C. Crawford submitted encouraging typewritten report of work done in sending communications to Weekly People readers in unorganized parts of the State. Report was accepted as one of progress.

Secretary reported following additions to N. A. F. fund: Syracuse, $20.26; Rochester, $24.87; Buffalo, $35.73; Troy, 19 cents; Newburg, $3.53; New York, $77.00; Scandinavian Section, $21.00; Schenectady, $18.59; Richmond, $2.10; Bekhner, $2.10. Making a total of $269.73 to-date.

Financial report for April was submitted as following: Receipts, due stamps $74.16; mileage, $18.54; total $92.70. Expenditures: due stamps, $70.00, stationary, secretary, $1.03, postage and sundries, $1.11; total $72.14. Balance $20.50. Adopted.

Draft of call for per capita was read and ordered sent to sections.

It was decided to issue a call for the election of delegates to a State Convention of the S. L. P., to be held in the Daily Peolpe Building, on July 7.

The secretary was instructed to write to Secretary of State for list of officers to be filled at the next state election.

The matter of arranging an agitational tour of the state was laid over until the first meeting after the National Convention of the Party.

A draft of a call for action in behalf of the Weekly People along the lines adopted by the Illinois S. E. C. was read and ordered published.

It was decided to recommend to Sections that wherever lay offs, shut downs and strikes take place, the Party leaflets on crises, trades unions, arbitration, etc., be distributed. This will result in a good deal of timely and appropriate agitation.

The meeting then adjourned.

Justus Ebert, Secretary.

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COMMITTEE.

Regular meeting of General Committee, Massachusetts S. L. P. at Boston, Mass., May 22, called to order by the secretary. Comrade L. H. Englehardt of Everett, elected chairman in the absence of Comrade Frank Keefe, the regular officer. Roll call showed Berry, Murphy, Greenman, Englehardt, Sweeny, Neilsen and Mortenson present, and Keefe, Fitzgerald and Young absent.

Records of previous meeting read and accepted. (At this juncture Comrade Keefe made his appearance and took the chair). Credentials of Comrade Richard Murphy, delegate from Lynn, accepted and delegate seated.

Communications: From Lowell, on agitation matters. Referred to secretary. From Lawrence, sending vote on the paid secretary question. Vote recorded, and correspondence filed. From New Bedford sending money for delegates, etc., and ordering stamps. Attended to by secretary. From Fall River, sending vote on paid secretary question. Vote recorded, correspondence filed. From Lynn, sending vote on the matter of paid secretary, and on treasurer of general committee; correspondence filed and vote recorded on both question. From Lawrence, sending for dues stamps and asking information on important matter, which Section Lawrence desires to have referendum vote of Massachusetts S. L. P. upon. Attended to by secretary and correspondence filed. From Somerville, sending vote on paid secretary matter, and on treasurer of committee. Vote recorded and correspondence filed. From Boston, sending vote on same matters. Correspondence filed and vote recorded. From Gardner, on local conditions. Attended to by secretary, and his action endorsed. From Holyoke, on general party outlook; filed.

Report of committees: Auditing committee report on the report of agitation committee of 1903. It was accepted. Report ordered printed and sent to sections and contributors.

Secretary reports on the general situation in the State and submits for the action of the committee a circular letter to be sent to sections, and asks that it be ordered printed, which was done under new business, after the letter had been referred to the agitation committee.

New business: Ordered that the vote now being taken on the matters of paid secretary, treasurer of general committee, and delegates to national convention, close, and that the vote on these matters be reported by the secretary, at the next regular meeting, June 12.

Ordered that secretary write secretary of Greater Boston Entertainment Committee requesting that that body begin at once the work of running entertainments for the benefit of the party and report the work done, or in anticipation, to this committee. Adjourned.

Michael T. Berry,
Secretary General Committee,
Mass. S. L. P., Lynn, Mass.

FOR OVER SIXTY YEARS.
An Old and Well-Tried Remedy.
MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP
has been used for over SIXTY YEARS by MILLIONS of MOTHERS for their CHILDREN WHILE TEETHING, WITH PERFECT SUCCESS. IT SOOTHES the CHILD, SOFTENS the GUMS, ALLAYS all PAIN; CURES WIND COLIC, and is the best remedy for DIARRHOEA. Sold by Druggists in every part of the world. Be sure and ask for
MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP,
AND TAKE NO OTHER KIND.
Twenty-five Cents a Bottle.

MISSOURI S. E. C.

Bilsbarrow in chair. Feltman absent without excuse.

Communications: From Kansas City, relation to party matter and advising pledge on State Agitation Fund. From Minden Mines, from L. Raysdale, Topeka, from R. Hood, Minden Mines.

Ways and Means Committee reports that appeal to People readers has been printed and is ready for distribution; also reports pledges received as follows: K. C. $42.00; Minden Mines, $6.00; Ragsdale, fifty-five cents, and Danforth, Mo., fifty cents.

The State Executive Committee instructed the State secretary to issue call for a Mass State Convention to be held on July 16 at 8 p. m., at St. Louis, Mo., for the purpose of nominating a State ticket for the election of November 8, 1904; and to transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Financial report: On hand, $3.46; receipts, $4.32; total, $7.78; disbursement, $4.07; balance, $3.71.

George Danner,
Recording Secretary.

St. Louis, Mo., May 16.

CALL FOR NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION.

To the sections of the Socialist Labor Party in the State of New York!

Comrades—You are herewith called upon to elect delegates to the regular State convention of the Socialist Labor Party, to be held in the Daily People Building, 2-6 New Reade street, N. Y. City, on Thursday, July 7, to nominate candidates for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Secretary of State, Comptroller, Treasurer, Attorney-General, State Engineer and Surveyor, one Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, and thirty-nine electors of President and Vice-President; and to transact such other business as may properly come before it.

The basis of representation to State conventions in New York is one delegate for each section and one additional delegate for every 500 votes cast within its jurisdiction.

The wages and expenses of delegates must be borne by the sections sending them.

It is hoped that every section will be fully represented, and that the convention will be worthy of the great State and the great cause which it represents.

For the New York State Executive Committee, Socialist Labor Party,

Justus Ebert, Secretary,
2-6 New Reade street, N. Y.

CONNECTICUT STATE CONVENTION

The Socialist Labor Party of Connecticut will hold its State convention on Monday, May 30, 1904, at the headquarters of Section Hartford, 892 Main Street, top floor. Convention will be called to order at 9 a. m. The basis of representation is one delegate at large and one for every 10 members in good standing or major fraction thereof.

Sections should instruct their delegates to report all available candidates for the State ticket in their respective districts and to hand in a complete report about the work done and the standing of their respective Sections.

Sections are requested to send a full delegation in order to enable the convention to transact its business.

For the Connecticut S. E. C.

A. Giergipsky, Secretary.
136 Governor street, Hartford.

THE DAILY PEOPLE HOMESTRETCH FUND.

UNDER THIS HEAD WILL BE PUBLISHED ALL DONATIONS MADE FOR THE LAST FINAL EFFORT TO CLEAR UP THE BALANCE OF THE DEBT ON THE DAILY PEOPLE PRINTING PLANT. THAT BALANCE, ON NOVEMBER 15, WAS $4,643, PLUS INTEREST. WATCH AND SEE HOW THE FIGURES OF THE "HOMESTRETCH FUND" GET UP TO IT.

Previously acknowledged	$4,174.60
P. Kretlow, Berlin, Germany	2.00
W. P. B., Chicago, Ill.	2.00
K. Georgevitch, Schenectady, N. Y.	1.00
J. Weinberger, Schenectady, N. Y.	1.00
W. M. Bopp, Brooklyn, N. Y.	1.00
Total	$4,181.60

GENERAL ORGANIZER'S FUND.

Previously acknowledged	$157.40
L. A. 325, Los Angeles, Cal	3.00
John Donohue, N. Y.	2.00
J. W. Kern, St. Louis, Mo.	.25
23d A. D., N. Y., S. L. P.	2.60
L. A. 140, N. Y. (Weekly Contributions)	
John J. Kinneally	.60
John Leahey	.25
J. Newman	.10
Jos. P. Johnson	.10
F. B. Sullivan	.10
Pearson	.10
Bartel	.10
L. A. 42, Yonkers, N. Y.	
O. Carraher	.45
P. Jacobson	.35
R. W. Gaffney	.35
E. McCormick	.25
J. A.O.	.10
Total to date	$168.10

THE WEAVER'S STRIKE.

The strike of the members of L. A. 392, North Vassalboro, Me., having been declared off, no further contributions will be required.

Previously acknowledged	$81.60
L. A. 373, Lawrence, Mass	1.25
23d A. D., N. Y., S. L. P.	1.70
J. M. Tierney, Seattle Wash.	1.00
John Walsh, New York	.50
Samuel Rohrbach, Reading, Pa.	1.00
Total to date	$87.05

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Section New York, Socialist Labor Party.

On Saturday, May 7, 1904, 8.30 p. m., a regular meeting was held at 2-6 New Reade street, Manhattan.

Chairman, A. Francis; Vice-Chairman, J. Scherer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as read.

Six new delegates were seated.

Four new members were admitted.

Party Press Circular number six was received and referred to the Assembly Districts.

A letter from the National Executive Committee on the question of assessments for international delegates' expenses was received and referred to the Assembly Districts with instructions for prompt action.

Acting upon a call from the National Executive Committee to secure a hall for the national convention the following members were elected to make arrangements: A. Francis, S. Winawer, F. Brauckmann and L. Abelson.

The organizer reported the result of the general vote on the question of the seat of the national convention as follows: New York, 185; St. Louis, 26; Boston, 2.

The action of the organizer in engaging Grand Central Palace for Thanksgiving Day Festival was indorsed.

It was decided to enforce the rule at general party meetings, that members must show cards in good standing.

Adjournment followed.

A. C. Kihn, Secretary.

PENNSYLVANIA S. E. C.

To whom it may concern:

The seat of the State Executive Committee has been removed from Pittsburg to Philadelphia, with Louis Katz, 232 Green street, Philadelphia, as Secretary, to whom all communications for the S. E. C. must be addressed.

Respectfully,
P. C. Tesson, Ex-Secretary.
Pittsburg, Pa., May 22, 1904.

SCANDINAVIAN SOCIALIST'S PICNIC.

To the Members of the Socialist Labor Party of Massachusetts:—On Monday, May 30, the Scandinavian Socialist Club of Boston, will hold their annual picnic in Amory Grove, Roxbury. It is the duty of the members of the S. L. P. to help makes this picnic a success, at least by their presence.

It is an old saying, and a true one, that "a friend in need is a friend indeed." And the Scandinavian Socialist Club has often befriended the S. L. P. and its members have done more than our own, in many instances, to make events run off for the benefit of the S. L. P. a success financially.

These men and women, some seventy-five of them Socialists, with Socialism in their hearts, as well as on their lips, have been responsible for much of the money that has been used to keep the work of the party going in this State. And they are now aiding the S. L. P. in holding a picnic for the benefit of the campaign, which will be held in Amory Grove on Saturday, July 16. It is but a slight mark of respect on our part, for the debt of gratitude we owe to the Scandinavian Socialist Club of Boston, that we be present at their picnic on May 30, and assist in making it a success; especially so when we know that the proceeds will be used in propagating the programme of the S. L. P. in Massachusetts and the nation.

Comrade Joseph F. Malloney, our late candidate for president, will address the audience assembled on that day.

So comrades, do what you can by your presence, and by spreading the knowledge of the holding of this picnic among our members and the working class, and thus aid the movement for the liberation of our class.

Michael T. Berry.
Secretary Massachusetts S. L. P.

ATTENTION BRANCH TROY.

There will be a special meeting of Branch Troy, S. L. P. Sunday May 29, at headquarters, 351 River street, for purpose of considering and investigating comrade James Connelly in the matter of Wages, Marriage and the Church, and also to decide whether his attitude and actions are an attack on the party.

All members should make it a point to be present. Secretary.

GERMAN PARTY ORGAN.

Comrades—Our German Party Organ, the "Socialistische Arbeiter Zeitung" has in the last few months made some headway in regard to the subscription list, but not yet enough to have the paper on a paying basis. Until the subscription list of the "Socialistische Arbeiter Zeitung," by energetic and systematic work of the comrades, is raised to a point where the paper is self-sustaining, the party must cover the deficiency. The bulk of this burden has been carried by the members of Section Cleveland. With other large expenses on its hands, Section Cleveland has asked and received the consent of the N. E. C. to arrange a general bazaar and prize division for the benefit of the "Socialistische Arbeiter Zeitung."

We expect to have a large number of prizes for this occasion and would therefore call upon the comrades and sympathizers throughout the United States and Canada to donate such prizes. When all give a helping hand the burden is comparatively small. All presents should be sent to the undersigned address and the same will be acknowledged in the party press. As soon as a sufficient number of prizes are at hand we will ship tickets to all Sections for disposal.

The management of "Socialistische Arbeiter Zeitung,"

193 Champlain street, Cleveland, O.

Indorsed by N. E. C., S. L. P., National Secretary.

BERRY WINS AGAIN.

Donovan Fails To Secure New Trial and Reduction of Verdict.

[Special to The Daily People.]

Boston, May 21.—In the case of Michael T. Berry of Lynn, versus Jerry E. Donovan, of Haverhill, in which the defendant moved for new trial and the reduction of the amount of the verdict rendered April 15, by a jury in the Superior Civil Court, Essex County, wherein the jury found for the plaintiff in the sum of $1,500, Justice Chas. A. DeCourcey, before whom the case was heard, has denied the motion of the defendant Donovan.

The case will now, in all probability, go to the full bench of the State for final action.

The plaintiff Berry, a shoeworker, who was and is a member of the Socialist Labor Party, was discharged from his employment in a Haverhill shoe factory through the action of Donovan, who was then the walking delegate of the Boot and Shoe Workers Union.

There was a contract existing between the firm H. B. Goodman & Co. and the union, which called upon the firm not to employ any person who might be "in arrears for dues, or for disobedience of union rules, or laws, or for any other cause." Plaintiff was not a member and refused to join said union, and was discharged because Donovan threatened a strike in the shop.

The contention of the plaintiff was that the contract was against public policy and void when the rights of third parties intervened.

Success.

THE GREAT SOUTHWEST.

The Southwest is looming up as the coming agricultural section of the country. There is more diversity of crops in Texas and the territories than in any other section. Wheat, corn and cotton grow side by side, and cattle can be raised more easily than elsewhere. Rice, too, is becoming an important crop. This country imports thousands of tons of it a year, but Texas and Louisiana, it is predicted, will be able before long to supply the demand. Railroads are rapidly developing ports on the gulf and in ten years more the great Northwest may be dwarfed by the greater Southwest.

If you receive a sample copy of this paper it is an invitation to subscribe. Subscription price: 50 cents per year; 25 cents for six months. Address Weekly People, 2-6 New Reade street, New York City.

INDIANA'S TICKET

(Continued from page 1.)

struction of the National Executive Committee. Motion lost.

The following resolution was then moved and adopted:

Whereas, Section New York, S. L. P. has stated that it would be advisable to have members of other sections beside Section New York on the National Executive Committee; therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Executive Committee be composed of members of Section New York and elsewhere.

Although no action was taken by the convention on the matter of party press, the subject however brought forth a lively discussion and it was the expression of the entire convention that the Daily People should and must live and that every effort should be made to increase the circulation of the Weekly People, that it is not only a power in agitation and propaganda, but that it would also reduce the cost of production of the daily issues.

Comrade Hugh Richards was next elected delegate to the National Convention with Comrade E. J. Dillon as alternate, both being elected by acclamation.

The convention then proceeded to make nominations as above.

Comrade E. J. Dillon, who was nominated for governor, is a resident of Marion and a glass-blower by trade. He is an able representative of the working class, and has been in our movement for nine years.

A vote of thanks was tendered the ladies who had spread a refreshing lunch for the delegation, and which was heartily enjoyed and relished during the noon recess and after the final adjournment in the evening.

A collection was taken among those present for the benefit of Campaign Fund which netted $6.45.

Convention then adjourned.

Frank Janke, Secretary.

Marion, Ind., May 22.—E. J. Dillon, our candidate for governor, was arrested while asserting the right of free speech at the corner of Fourth and Washington streets. The charge against him was "obstructing a public highway." The matter will be tested in the courts.

SECTION ALBANY.

Section Albany, Albany Co., N. Y., has opened its old headquarters at Van Vochten Hall, Room 7, 119 State street, and will hold its regular business meeting every Monday at 8 p. m. All those who claim to be S. L. P. men and are willing to join are invited to attend; also sympathizers willing to help financially.

TO THE READERS OF "THE PEOPLE" IN SAN ANTONIO, TEX.

Section San Antonio, S. L. P., holds open-air agitation meetings every Saturday night, 8 o'clock, on Main Plaza. All live topics of the day are discussed there by a competent speaker from the working class standpoint. Don't fail to attend, and bring some friends or shopmates.

'FRISCO S. L. P. HEADQUARTERS.

Section San Francisco's headquarters and free reading rooms, located at 610 Montgomery street (between Clay and Washington streets), third floor, room 23, are open every day in the year.

Section business meetings every Monday night at 8 o'clock. Comrades and sympathizers are requested to call.

SOUTH HUDSON OPEN AIR MEETING

Section South Hudson of New Jersey, will hold its first open air meeting at Five Corners, Jersey City, on Friday, May 27, at 8 p. m.

Chas Gerold.

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BY

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1. That medicine, as practiced nowadays, is immoral, and that doctors, generally speaking, are but impostors, and often murderers.

2. That the road wherein now marches medical science in order to fight out diseases, is wrong.

3. That Socialism alone can permit medical science to destroy all kind of diseases.

4. That man, living according to the laws of nature and of hygiene, things that under Socialism everybody could do, may reach an age twice as great as is now considered exceptional.

5. That old age as we know it is not a normal evolution of the body, but the result of diseases more or less apparent.

6. That Socialism is not a question of the stomach for some people, but is a question of the health and happiness of all people.

"The story lays no claim to economic or sociologic merit. It is an outburst of a warm heart, that bleeds at the sight of human suffering under the modern system of society, and that, animated by Socialist sentiment, sings the prose song of the ideal city. As a man of scientific training—a successful New Orleans physician—the author has built upon the solid foundations of medical science, and that vein is perhaps the most typical, as it probably is the most pleasing and instructive to strike and follow in the book."—New York Daily People.

From the press of

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THE SCANDANAVIAN SOCIALIST CLUB OF BOSTON

WILL GIVE ITS SEVENTEENTH PICNIC
DECORATION DAY

Monday, May 30, 1904,

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Speech by J. F. MALLONEY—Singing by four Scandinavian Singing Choruses, Sports and Games of Different Kinds.

Dancing 2 to 10 P. M. DOHERTY'S ORCHESTRA—Admission, Gent, 50 Cents; Lady, 35 Cents—Children Under Twelve Years with Parents, Free.

Fourth Anniversary of the DAILY PEOPLE

Arranged by Section New York, Socialist Labor Party

Monday, July 4, 1904.

Commencing at 2 P. M

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Prize Games for Women and Children

Prize Bowling for Gentlemen

TICKETS, *Admitting Gentleman and Lady,* 25 CENTS.

DIRECTIONS:—From Brooklyn Bridge take Myrtle avenue cars or Ridgewood train and transfer at Ridgewood for the Park. From Grand, Houston or Twenty-third street ferries take Bushwick avenue car and transfer at the same point for the Park.

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Section Calender

(Under this head we shall publish standing advertisements of Section headquarters, or other permanent announcements, at a nominal rate. The charge will be one dollar per line per year.)

New York County Committee—Second and fourth Saturdays, 8 p. m., at 2-6 New Reade street, Manhattan.

Kings County Committee—Second and fourth Saturdays, 8 p. m., at headquarters, 813 Park avenue, Brooklyn.

General Committee—First Saturday in the month, at Daily People building, 2-6 New Reade street, Manhattan.

Offices of Section New York, at Daily People building, 2-6 New Reade street, Manhattan.

Los Angeles, California. Section headquarters and public reading room at 205½ South Main street. Public educational meetings every Sunday evening. People readers are invited to our rooms and meetings.

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